



Sad services in Lockerbie as the searching goes on



A tearful girl after Mass in Lockerbie yesterday.

Crash investigators, airlines and aircraft manufacturers were last night becoming increasingly worried that the crash of the Pan Am jumbo jet at Lockerbie could have been caused by some kind of catastrophic structural failure rather than a bomb, as was first thought.

The Queen made an unprecedented addition to her traditional Christmas Day message to talk of "the many homes today where the joy of Christmas has been darkened by a cloud of sadness and grief".

Investigators are now concentrating on the jagged edges of the metal around the nose section of the jet, checking for any signs of metal fatigue or an indication that the aircraft may have lost one of its forward cargo doors in flight.

which, from the pattern of the impact area, appears to have been missing as the aircraft went into the ground. This had led to theories that it could have been knocked off as the nose section tore away from the main wreckage, shortly before the impact, and may have been blown by the wind into the sea just south of the crash site.

for his son for three days after Pan Am told him he had been killed on board Flight 103. On Saturday his son, a serviceman, telephoned from Germany, unaware that the airline had confused his name with that of someone else.

North Sea oil output hit by drifting tanker

Fears of 25% cut in overall production

By Andrew Morgan, Mark Souster and David Brewerton

Britain's North Sea oil fields were today facing a massive loss of production after a giant floating storage vessel serving three fields broke from its moorings.

The vessel will be examined in Stavanger and assessed for damage, which we believe to be minimal but it could take several weeks to get it back in position because it is unique in the North Sea.

The loss also comes at a time when oil prices are beginning to pick up. However, the unseasonably warm weather should go some way to offset the fall in production.

Overseas earnings from crude oil have already fallen sharply, a reflection of both lower prices and production cutbacks. In 1985, net overseas earnings from oil were about \$9 billion. This year they will be little more than \$2 billion.

However, Britain should remain self-sufficient in oil for the next four to five years, and the current shutdown will extend the life of the fields.

Mr Jim Walker, an oil economist with the Royal Bank of Scotland, said the production loss from the Fulmar field would have its chief effect on the balance of payments rather than on government North Sea revenues.

INSIDE First Light The first of six extracts from Peter Ackroyd's latest novel, a lyrical mixture of science and comedy, page 16

Charades A family quiz for Christmas, with champagne prizes, begins on page 14

TOMORROW Early Times A special 12-page edition of the children's newspaper Early Times comes free with The Times

Portfolio Saturday's weekly prize of £8,000 was not claimed so the game resumes on Wednesday with the Accumulator standing at £80,000 in addition to the £4,000 daily prize.

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Sandringham Christmas for Royal Family



The Queen and 25 other members of the Royal Family were greeted by a huge crowd when they attended a service in St Mary Magdalene Church, Sandringham yesterday. It was the first royal Christmas at Sandringham for 25 years because the usual venue, Windsor Castle, is undergoing repairs.

Peace call to Israel Mubarak offers talks

From Richard Owen in Jerusalem and Nicholas Beeston in London

Israel yesterday moved swiftly to welcome an offer by President Mubarak of Egypt to Israel for talks on Middle East peace for the first time since he came to power.

But in the same breath Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Israeli Prime Minister, rejected the idea that Israel might take part "indirectly" in the current talks between the United States and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the executive committee of which was meeting in Baghdad to discuss the formation of a Palestinian government in exile.

leader, Mr Yassir Arafat, was a bluff. Yesterday he said after the first meeting of the new Israeli Cabinet that he would be happy to receive Mr Mubarak "in Jerusalem".

Mr Shamir told Newsweek magazine that the renunciation of terrorism by the PLO since it renounced terrorism and recognized Israel's right to exist last month, emerged yesterday when President Mubarak told the Kuwaiti newspaper al-Anbaa that he would be prepared to visit Israel for the first time since he came to power in 1981.

"If such a visit (to Israel) would lead to a solution of the problem and establishment of Manger Square hope.....6

Marie-Laure Beuille, aged seven, her sister Virginie, aged six, and their mother were seized by the Fatah Revolutionary Council on the yacht Silco in the eastern Mediterranean in November last year, together with five Belgians.

Season of warmth

By Robin Young

It has been the warmest Christmas for years. The temperature in London on Christmas Eve reached 14C (57.2F), the highest since 1940, and yesterday, with a maximum temperature of 12C (54F), was the warmest Christmas Day since 1974.

which is bad news for those who chose to spend their holiday skiing. Conditions in Scotland, where the temperature reached 9C, were described as "hopeless".



Third dimension to the technology of television

By Robert Matthews Technology Correspondent

Anyone flagging under the strain of hours of Christmas television-watching can benefit from a breakthrough in entertainment technology by Professor Fergus Campbell of Cambridge University.

"visual cues" - as objects come closer they appear to get larger and to move across the field of vision faster.

One drawback is that because of the smaller apparent screen size only one person at a time can watch.

On preserving one's sang-froid. Undoubtedly, January's Sales offer a gentleman the chance to make many a judicious purchase.

Examples of our reductions: 2-piece suits Original Price £260 Sale Price £195 Wool blazers £175 £115 Pure cotton shirts £45 £27 Silk ties £29 £14

GIEVES & HAWKES No. 1 Savile Row, London The Gentleman's Sale. Starts 27th December: No. 1 Savile Row, London, 1-7 St. Michael's Row, Chester, 48 George Street, Edinburgh.



# Drive to halt threat of drink, drugs and Aids among young

By David Tyler, Education Editor

A radical anti-drugs programme will be launched early in the new year to combat the growing problem of drug and alcohol abuse in schools. Traditional campaigns can no longer halt the dangers of drugs, teenage drinking and glue sniffing, according to Mr John Butcher, Under Secretary of State for Education and Science.

In an exclusive interview with *The Times*, Mr Butcher said: "We will be launching a long-term, highly sophisticated, preventative operation. The problem is too complex to be solved by traditional methods. We now need a more subtle approach."

The Government campaign will centre on 100 drug co-ordinators throughout the country who will be involved in formulating policy. The first significant change will be to stop treating drug abuse in isolation.

Mr Butcher said: "Until now we have tackled booze, drugs, solvent abuse and Aids as separate problems. They are inextricably linked and will now be tackled together. The national effort so far has been directed to separate campaigns but it is very clear to everyone that young people who drink too much are prone to drugs. Solvent abuse is dangerous in itself but it can also lead to drugs. And drugs are a direct route to Aids."

"We have reached preliminary agreement that all four problems are related, and we will change the original brief

of the drugs co-ordinators to allow them to deal with all these problems."

Details of the anti-drugs operation will be discussed by Mr Butcher at a meeting in February with about a dozen regional drug co-ordinators when for the first time government policy will be formulated by those expected to make it work.

Mr Butcher said: "We will allow the people who will deliver the policy to be part of the team developing the policy. This is not a case of a minister driving through an agenda. We will write the agenda together, decide the policy together and then drive it through together."

"Complete openness is very much in order. The co-ordinators must feel they are not constrained in any way in the candour of the advice they can offer. It is a long time since I have been so impressed by a group of people. These very intelligent people come to the discussion table with a real commitment and could have a real effect on the problems in our schools."

The meeting will discuss how the co-ordinators can best advise schools in developing drugs education before the introduction of the national curriculum and how to improve the quality of drugs education in schools through better co-operation with the Department of Education and Science.

Mr Butcher said: "The co-ordinators will be working

alongside the schools. I am sure there will be a whole range of proposals which could be different from region to region. What would be acceptable in Newcastle for example might not be ideal in Birmingham."

Mr Butcher will also be discussing the financing of the co-ordinators, many of them former teachers with an average age of about 25. They are paid by annual Educational Support Grants. The grants have been fixed for a further year but Mr Butcher is hoping to organize a more permanent arrangement.

He said: "The fight against drugs is going to be a long, hard slog. It will involve a great deal of sophistication. We are fighting a guerrilla war, not a frontal war, and guerrilla warfare is only won by getting better intelligence and targeting resources on the major sources of the problem."

Mr Butcher is confident the new programme can be successful: "If by winning we mean a gradual reduction in the proportion of youngsters trapped by drugs and booze then we can win. And we will win mainly through preventative work carried out locally and long term."

"We have always taken drugs very seriously but are now better informed on the nature of the problem. How successful we are in dealing with it means that young lives are either ruined or not ruined. And that is a rather chilling motivation."

# Paralysed girl looks forward to school

HARRY KEHR  
By Jill Sherman  
Social Services  
Correspondent



A girl aged four is looking forward to starting school full time in the new year after spending more than two years on a life-support machine with 24-hour nursing care.

Alicia Leston-Rama was paralysed from the neck down in a road accident near her home in Cardiff. For 16 months after the accident she was treated in the intensive care unit at the University Hospital of Wales, moving to the children's ward a year ago.

Her mother said Alicia talks normally and is always cheerful and happy, although she will need constant nursing and life-support machines indefinitely. "She gets on very well with all the staff."

Her parents expected her to return home at the end of this year but the local council is still converting their home to cope with her disabilities.

The condition of her sister Juanita, aged six, who has spina bifida, is deteriorating and the £90,000 conversion has to allow for two severely disabled children.

Alicia, who still has no movement below her neck, attends a special school for the disabled one day a week, but is expected to attend full time in the new year, with a £35,000 portable ventilator.

Mrs Sandra Leston-Rama, her mother, visits her daughter every day and takes her for a walk in her wheelchair.

"We are preparing a big party which will be attended by the Lord Mayor and Mayor of Cardiff. They said they wanted to see Alicia into her home."

In the new year Mrs Leston-Rama will take a six-week course in caring for her daughter, including how to monitor and operate the high-technology equipment.

She and her husband Jose have also raised £32,000 in the last year through sponsored events to pay for the extra costs when Alicia goes home.

South Glamorgan health authority has paid more than £330,000 for the girl's care since the crash, and has agreed to pay the £100,000-a-year bill for home nursing.

## Two burnt to death after crash

By A Staff Reporter

Two youths were burnt to death when their car hit a tree and burst into flames in the early hours of yesterday morning. The driver is said to have been drinking.

The car hit a tree shortly after midnight in the village of Aldbourne, four miles from Swindon, the home town of the two who died, who were both aged 17. Another 17-year-old was thrown clear. People living near by tried unsuccessfully to put out the fire which followed the crash.

A police spokesman said: "The cause of the accident is not yet known and our inquiries are continuing. We have evidence that the driver had been drinking prior to the accident."

Dorset police were yesterday investigating the discovery on Christmas Eve of the body of a cyclist aged 50. The man had been run down as he crossed a bridge.

Mrs Phyllis Neenan, aged 79, of Stokenchurch, Buckinghamshire, died yesterday when her car was involved in a collision in High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire.

Mr Joseph Kerney, aged 28, of West Drayton, west London, died after his car hit a tree in Slough, Berkshire on Christmas Eve. On the same day a motorcyclist died after an accident involving a bus on the A131 at Great Leighs near Braintree, Essex.

A youth aged 17 who was killed by a hit-and-run driver in Milton Keynes last Friday was run over by another five vehicles, including two lorries, police said yesterday. Only two of the cars stopped.

A young mother died yesterday, a week after her husband was killed in a car crash which also badly injured their baby son. Mrs Alison Handley, aged 28, had been on a life support machine in Frenchay Hospital, near Bristol, since the accident in the Cotswolds last Sunday.

## Seven murdered in Christmas carnage

By Mark Souster

Seven murders were being investigated yesterday after a violent Christmas weekend. In the West Midlands, the killer of a man found dying from stab wounds outside an ambulance station in Dudley, Hereford and Worcester, was being hunted.

The victim was named by police as Roy John Kucharski, aged 37, whose last known address was at Crawley, Sussex. Mr Kucharski was believed to be visiting family in the area over the holiday period.

Police are investigating possible links between the murder and two other incidents in the town on the same night.

In one, a youth aged 17, was cut on the face after a fight outside a discotheque, and in an earlier fracas a group of youths were involved in a disturbance after an off-licence was raided.

Det Supt Derek Ford, said: "The murder weapon has not been found, but we believe a double-bladed knife more than two-and-a-half inches long was used."

In Redditch, in Hereford and Worcester, a man died in police custody two hours after being arrested for drunkenness. A post mortem examination revealed he died from massive internal injuries. Police said the man may have been involved in a disturbance at a public house before his arrest.

Yesterday police named two men whose bodies were found with multiple stab wounds after what appeared to be a dockside knife fight at Exmouth, Devon. Mr Clifford Haylett, aged 22, of Langstone Drive, Exmouth, and Mr David Edward Clifford, aged 29, of Upper Park Road, Brightlingsea, Essex, were found dead at Exmouth docks. A third man was being questioned by police.

A woman, aged 45, was being questioned by detectives yesterday after the death of a lorry driver, aged 43, from a stab wound. She is expected to appear at a special court today in connection with the death of Mr Christopher Nolan, who was found by police on Christmas Eve in his home in Canterbury Avenue, Bradford, West Yorkshire.

A man will also appear in court today in Derbyshire accused of the murder of five-week-old Simone Price, found dead at her home in Blackwell near Chesterfield, Derbyshire, on Friday.

Further south, Mr Mohammed Razak, aged 21, will appear in court today at Crawley, West Sussex, accused of murdering his elder brother Abdul, aged 24, at the family's home in Tatham Court, Crawley, Sussex.

## Print clue to murderer

Detectives hunting the killer of a young woman photographer are waiting to match genetic fingerprints with a list of suspects.

Forensic scientists are working over Christmas to find clues on the clothing and under the fingernails of Lorraine Benson, aged 22. Police are linking her murder to the Norblin rapist, who has struck three times before, but they will not be certain until DNA testing has been completed.

Miss Benson was attacked as she walked from Raynes Park railway station, south London, early last week. She was strangled and her body dumped in undergrowth.

A detective said: "We're still waiting for the test results and if they turn anything up we have a number of people we can be comparing them with."

### Improving old records

## Discovery removes scratches

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

Old recordings of music can be recreated as faithfully as the original performance from deteriorating gramophone records, using a technique that removes the noise caused by scratches and other deterioration.

The system has been used to remake as diverse a range of artists as Ravel conducting Bolero in 1932; Andres Segovia, the Andrews Sisters, "Live Dead" and "Europe 72" by the Grateful Dead.

It has also been used in forensic science tests, rendering a taped conversation between a murderer and the victim audible above background noise.

The invention, called NoNoise, is the latest advance in the use of so-called artificially intelligent computers for the analysis of electronic signals for military communications and industrial purposes.

The discovery, by Sonic Solutions, in San Francisco, California, simply takes the noise out of old recordings. Using artificial intelligence, it can even reconstruct short pieces of missing music.

Two processes are used. One removes brief noise like clicks and another removes steady noise.

The NoNoise system is used primarily to re-master old recordings for release on compact discs since that medium should be noise-free regardless of the original condition of the recording.

NoNoise begins by making a digital tape recording of the original master, whether it is on tape, film or an old 78rpm record. Tapes are then loaded on to a large-capacity computer.

For de-clicking, the system reconstructs the problem portions of the recording by analysing the content before and after the click, and interpolating the portion in-between. Since the duration of the click is short, the process can sample enough of the surrounding material to make plausible guesses about the portion hidden by the noise.

Removing steady noise, like hiss, is a longer process. The system first samples the noise at 2,000 points in the frequency spectrum, creating a sonic fingerprint used to differentiate between noise and signal.

Tests are then run to determine the maximum level of noise reduction possible without altering content.

More than 53 million computations are performed to clean up one second of material.

To clean up the master for a typical compact disc, the computer runs all night.

## "Our son was like a caged animal. Barnardo's turned him into a little boy."



"Alex was caged within himself, withdrawn and terribly disruptive. It was frustration that he couldn't hear us, he couldn't talk to us."

"He had two moods, one where he was rushing around and breaking things, the other where he would never leave my side."

"He shattered the back window twice in a few weeks - he just didn't understand it was wrong."

"I used to get up in the mornings and think 'How am I going to cope?' Then his speech therapist suggested we see a Barnardo's Day Care Centre."

The aim of Barnardo's Day Care Centres is to care for children between 2 and 5 with special needs. They may be at risk in some way, or have specific disabilities.

"At first I said no, because it was admitting that something was wrong with our child, but you'll do anything if it is going to help."

We try to maintain a ratio of one carer to three or four children, but our

parents are the experts. They know their children better than we ever can, so they're always welcome, and we learn a lot from them.

ALEX, 5, HAD SEVERE SPEECH AND BEHAVIOURAL PROBLEMS IN MONTHS BEFORE BARNARDO'S DAY CARE CENTRE BROUGHT HIM BACK INTO THE REAL WORLD.

"My immediate and lasting impression when we first arrived was that I no longer had to apologise for Alex - they'd seen it all before. Every child is accepted for what they are, it's as if no behaviour could disrupt or dismay the Barnardo's staff."

It's a 50/50 operation with the parents. An individual profile is drawn up, identifying the areas of development for each child. We discuss their progress constantly and the notes and

plans are always available for parents to see.

"When Alex went in he had a vocabulary of 20 words if you listened hard. He was hard to handle, and not much pleasure to be with. Now he's a happy and lovable little boy, and his vocabulary is huge."

Alex spent eighteen months coming to the Day Care Centre, and he's now in a proper school.

"His metamorphosis is almost complete. We recently attended a christening, and for the first time I didn't have to slip out of the church with him. I watched my son, and was proud of him."

"If it wasn't for Barnardo's I don't know what would have happened to us."



**Barnardos**  
Give young people a chance





Faithful and curious are drawn together for Catholic worship in China and Italy

Papal plea on sad burden of Aids

From Roger Boyes, Rome
The Pope yesterday used his traditional Christmas day message to make an unusually direct appeal on behalf of Aids victims, urging the world to "take up their tragic burden".

with everyone's help may the work of reconstruction begin so that hope may spring again in that sorely afflicted region.
But the Christmas message also had something important to say about rejection - the fact that Joseph and Mary were forced to live in a stable in Bethlehem - and the need to overcome prejudice.



The Pope, holding his pastoral staff, stands on the central balcony of St Peter's Basilica after delivering his Christmas Day message yesterday. Moved by the recent spate of world disasters, he combined the theme of the joy at the birth of Christ with the misery of many.

Non-believers in Peking flock to Midnight Mass

Thousands of the simply curious and some non-Catholics who wanted to witness Christian rites, mainly university students, flocked to Midnight Masses in Peking's churches on Christmas Eve, despite warnings that non-believers would not be admitted.
In this officially atheist country, the crowds were clearly not risking their futures actually to attend, but they felt safe enough to experiment with this foreign and fascinating tradition.

At Nantang church, where Bishop Fu Tieshan celebrated Midnight Mass in Latin, hundreds of students were gathered outside the gates at 10.30 pm, complaining that they had not been allowed in.
"We have freedom now, that is why we have come for the first time," one said. Others said that although they were not believers, they were genuinely interested in Catholicism and the Bible, and wanted to witness the ritual of the Mass.

growing interest in things religious outside the membership of these organizations.
Officials at the gate of Nantang church used fairly arbitrary methods to screen out excess worshippers, some of whom gained admission by citing their baptismal Christian names.
Earlier in the evening, the Reverend Yin Jizeng took the Christmas Eve carol service at the Protestant Chongwenmen church. About 2,500 people attended, about a thousand more than go to Sunday worship. Apparently no one was turned away.

No homebuilder shows more signs of quality



At Ideal Homes we've always prided ourselves on the quality of our building. This year once again that quality has been recognised by the National House-Building Council.
Ideal Homes have won an unprecedented 2 Regional Awards and 11 Top 100 Awards - more than any other housebuilder this year. In addition we've notched up 11 individual commendations, further evidence of our ongoing commitment to quality.

Throughout the country there are 180 Ideal Homes developments offering a wide range of quality housing in a wide range of different styles. There's never been a better time to buy an Ideal Home than now. All our sales offices are open daily between 10.00am and 4.00pm from Wednesday 28th December and throughout the Christmas and New Year period. Contact your local number opposite and let our friendly sales staff furnish you with details of the properties in your area. So come and see what makes every Ideal Home a winner.



Ideal Homes logo

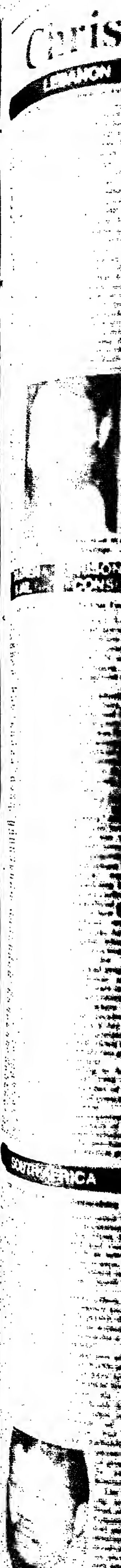
Glimmer of light penetrates gloom over Bethlehem

From Richard Owen, Jerusalem
It was a Christmas when the only street decorations were put up by Israeli Jews, not by Arab Christians.
It was a Christmas when Arab leaders - from Mr Elias Freij, the Mayor of Bethlehem, to Archbishop Michel Sabbah, the Roman Catholic Patriarch - found little to celebrate and much to grieve over because of Israeli actions against the intifada in the occupied territories this year.
It was a Christmas when the driving rain and thick mist which enveloped Manger Square and the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem seemed symbolic of the dismal mood.
Yet it was also a Christmas when some leaders on both sides began to see dim signs of hope through the gloom. The latter half of an otherwise troubled year has seen the beginnings of seismic shifts in the Middle East: the decision by the Palestine Liberation Organization to renounce terrorism and seek respectability; America's decision to talk to the PLO as a result; the new Israeli Cabinet's apparent realization that an Israeli initiative is needed.

46 die in rail crash

Peking (Reuters) - At least 46 people were killed and 63 injured when an express train hit a crowded bus on an unmanned crossing in Shenyang city in north-east China at the weekend, state radio said.
The train was travelling at normal speed from Dandong on the Korean border to Peking just before midnight on Friday. The radio report said that 17 per cent of the 12,000 train accidents in the first 10 months of this year in China involving death or injury were at unmanned crossings.

- Murder record
Wages boost
Governor hurt
Death crash
Snap check
Waste threat



# Christmas-time captivity in foreign jails

## LEBANON

From Juan Carlos Gumbaco, west Beirut

It was supposed to be "the Christmas of the hostages", some kind of reconciliation between Lebanon and the rest of the world through the release of foreigners languishing in the darkest cellars of Beirut. Instead, what came out were cruel reminders that hope is barely a mirage in Lebanon.

For months it seemed certain that the suffering of the hostages was nearing an end. The ceasefire in the Gulf war last July and Iran's subsequent improvement of relations with the West — illustrated by the release of three French and two West German hostages — had strengthened the possibility of a gradual release of 21 other foreigners before the end of the year.

London's rapprochement with Tehran had led many to believe that Mr Terry Waite, Mr John McCarthy and Mr Brian Keenan would probably be the first to regain their freedom.

But, as it turned out, it was only an illusion nourished by politicians whose hypotheses and wishful predictions ignored the entanglements of the region and Lebanon's incompensable ability to sink into new depths of its Mr Terry Waite, pictured in already been own crisis. The 1985, is still held in custody, credited as a



## CHILDREN IN JAIL

By David Rowan

Unlike most eight-year-old boys Amonissa Issa did not spend Christmas at home with his family — unless the Central Prison in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, can be called "home".

His mother, Mrs Namat Issa, was seven months pregnant when she was arrested in February, 1980; and although no official reason has been given for her arrest, her son has never known life outside prison, and he has never seen his father, Mr Mulugetta Issa, held in a separate prison.

A member of the Oromo ethnic community, Mrs Issa was a senior civil servant in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs until her detention.

Five years ago, Amonissa contracted a viral infection, thought to have been cerebral meningitis, which damaged his brain, leaving him mentally handicapped. Apart from weekly visits to a hospital for therapy, his life is limited to the women's section of the Central Prison.

To those children unwittingly caught in political conflicts the festive season brings little peace, goodwill or charity. A child's vulnerability and innocence provide no protection against imprisonment, torture or death, despite international conventions.

A report from Amnesty International this year highlighted the case of the several thousand South African children, some also as young as seven, who have been arrested under the state of emergency declared in June, 1985.

The report also condemned the "disappearance" of children in Argentina, Sri Lanka and Peru, following seizure by government forces, and called for the most basic rights of children to be honoured.

Nor do the children of "disappeared" parents find the suffering easy to accept.

## SOUTH AFRICA

From Michael Horasby, Johannesburg

South Africa's most famous prisoner, Nelson Mandela, aged 70, will today spend his 27th Christmas in the custody of prison authorities; whether he will ever again enjoy complete political and physical freedom is open to conjecture.

Earlier this month, in the latest stage in what has been called "freedom by instalment", Mandela was moved to a house on a prison estate near the wine-growing town of Paarl in the Western Cape, and told that he could receive visits from members of his family on "a continuous basis".

So far Mrs Winnie Mandela, whose visits to her husband hitherto have been rationed strictly, has declined to take up this offer, arguing that to do so would be wrong when she regards her husband to be just as much a prisoner as he was in the past.

Sut Mandela is only the best known of a large number of prisoners held in South Africa for their active opposition to apartheid and its denial, based on race, of political and other civil rights. Some of them, Nelson Mandela: His 27th Christmas in custody.



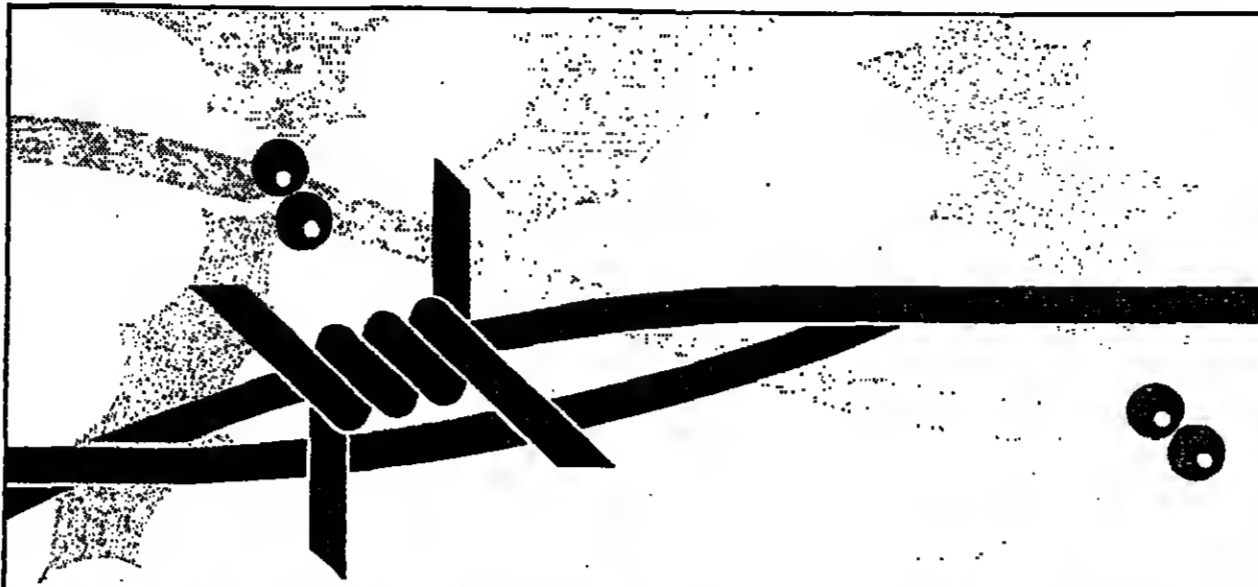
US was counting on its newly re-established dialogue with the Syrians to get Mr Terry Anderson and eight compatriots home for Christmas via Damascus. Despite Syria's campaign against the Shia Muslim extremists of the Hezbollah, he remains the longest-held foreign captive.

The US-based Journalists' Committee to Free Terry Anderson has called on his captors to release him and his fellow captives in a letter published in local newspapers. Yesterday, the American journalist spent his fourth Christmas somewhere in the southern suburbs of Beirut, perhaps even aware that his fate and that of his fellow hostages looks as grim as ever.

Not only are they trapped in the battlefield between Hezbollah and the Arab militia, but it is unthinkable that Mr George Bush, when he takes over the presidency, will engage in negotiations with the captors, since that could reopen wounds of the Iran-Contra affair.

Not only are they trapped in the battlefield between Hezbollah and the Arab militia, but it is unthinkable that Mr George Bush, when he takes over the presidency, will engage in negotiations with the captors, since that could reopen wounds of the Iran-Contra affair.

More than 1,600 Britons passed Christmas Day in foreign jails, about half of them for drug-related offences. The National Council for the Welfare of Prisoners Abroad is working with the Red Cross to provide food parcels for as many as possible; but for others in captivity around the world at Christmas can renew only a sense of isolation rather than a faith. Correspondents of *The Times* report on some of those spending Christmas in political detention.



valuable intermediary in the release of Americans, Frenchmen, West Germans, a South Korean and, more recently, an Indian teacher.

Failure to recognize Syria's President Assad as a key player in the region will certainly discourage any good will gesture from Damascus.

Iranian promises to help win the release of the hostages remain subject to conditions almost impossible to meet. Tehran wants Western pressure on the Christian right-

wing Lebanese forces militia to admit it murdered three kidnapped Iranians in 1982.

If there were any hopes that the captors could show some compassion or willingness to "reward" the West for its support to the Palestinians, they too have collapsed in the recent chain of events that seem to herald a new wave of strong anti-Western sentiments in Lebanon.

Perhaps the most ominous sign came five days before Christmas, when the Inter-

national Committee of the Red Cross took the unprecedented step of suspending operations in an area of conflict and evacuated its 17 remaining Swiss staff from Lebanon after death threats.

Diplomats of other European countries, which have endorsed Mr Amal's diplomatic strategy, are taking extraordinary precautions against what one of them described as a possible campaign of reprisals by Palestinian radicals opposed to the

PLO chairman.

For the few foreigners left in west Beirut, the murder of Mr Arthur van Nieuwerburg, a British-born Belgian teacher shot dead in broad daylight as he walked near his home two weeks ago, came as a shocking Christmas warning: no more shopping excursions, no more unnecessary walks around town. Despite the heavy presence of Syrian troops, it is clear that assassins and kidnappers can easily strike and escape.

## IRAN

By Nicholas Beeston

An eerie silence has descended this winter on Tehran's Evin prison, where two British prisoners, Mr Roger Cooper and Mr Nicholas Nichola, spent another bleak Christmas.

The relative quiet of the sprawling security prison is accounted for by four mouths of mass executions of Iranian political prisoners.

The silence has served to remind the British inmates that those moderates who hold the key to their freedom are no closer to gaining power in central Tehran, two British diplomats, Mr Gordon Pirie and Mr Victor Welborn, are reopening the Embassy for business, but their priority last week was to gain consular access to the Britons and to try to provide them with a turkey dinner.

In spite of a protest earlier this month by three generations of Coopers — his mother, brother and daughter — outside the Iranian Embassy in London seeking his release before Christmas, negotiations seem set to last well into the New Year.

The problem appears to centre on Mr Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, the hardline Interior Minister, who is opposed to moves by

moderate forces to re-establish ties with the West.

British diplomats are always treated cordially by the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, but the lobbying appears to have brought the two no closer to freedom.

Mr Cooper, aged 53, who had been based in Iran as a freelance journalist and businessman until the revolution in 1979, arrived in Tehran in the summer of 1985.

Revolutionary Guards arrested him that December 7 on the pretext that he had deliberately overstayed the time he had been granted to stay in Iran. He has never been formally charged, and his case, which appeared at first to be a straightforward misunderstanding, moved within months into the realms of international politics. Iranian television has showed him "confessing" to spying.

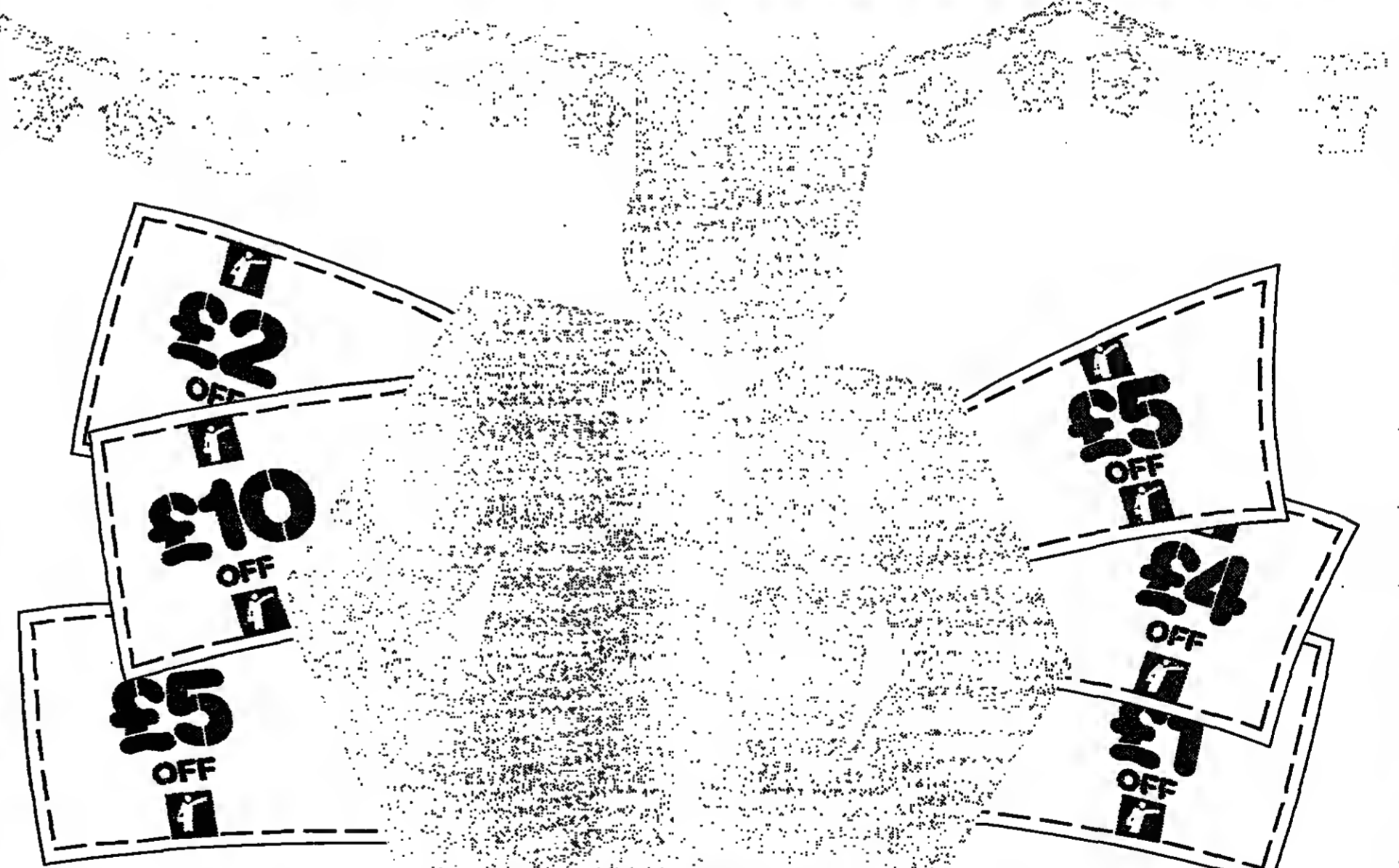
Mr Nichola, aged 28, presents a more confusing picture. He was arrested on September 15, 1986, on the Pakistani border by Iranian police who claim he was shooting at passing vehicles. He, too, has never been charged or brought to trial, their captors wanting to use it for political ransom.



Mr Cooper "confessing" on them for political ransom.

# SAVE £200 TOMORROW

(Anyone would think it's Christmas!)



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TELEVISION AND RADIO

BOXING DAY

Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 7.00 Now It's Christmas starting with The Muppet Babies (7).
- 7.20 Champion the Wonder Horse (b/w) in Sailed Ground (r).
- 7.45 The Last of the Kangaroo (1977). An animated film about a young girl lost in the Australian bush.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am begins with Boxing Day Sport presented by Geoff Clark; Midlands Special.
- 6.25 The Soccer Christmas Show with Matthew Corbett, Roger Walker and Suzi Atkinson.
- 9.30 Film: Mickey's Christmas Carol (1955). Cartoon version of Charles Dickens' classic.

Turkeys and trimmings

TELEVISION REVIEW

In the future, when we have so many television options that each member of a family watches their own choice in their own room, we may well hark back to this era as a golden age when families watched television together at Christmas.



Spirit of Christmas: Rowan Atkinson. The arts were more satisfyingly represented by the National Youth Theatre's opera, The Ragged Child (BBC2, Christmas Eve).

BBC2

- 9.00 Caesars.
- 11.00 Film: Fort Apache (1948, b/w) starring John Wayne and Henry Fonda.
- 1.05 Film: The Ladykillers (1955, b/w) starring Alec Guinness.

CHANNEL 4

- 9.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series. The guest is Victor Borge.
- 10.30 Race Against the Wind. This first of a repeated series of Assignment Adventure documentaries.

TELEVISION CHOICE

Ostensibly a documentary about Kenneth Branagh and the Renaissance Theatre Company he founded with David Parfitt, Caught in the Act (Channel 4, 7.00pm) veers off interestingly into a wider consideration of actor-managers and actor-directors.

RADIO CHOICE

Having got it into their heads that Boxing Day and Ben Travers are one and the same (and who am I to question this?), the planners of Radio 4's holiday fare have come up with The Dippers (7.20pm).



Roger Moore stars as the secret agent, James Bond, in Octopussy, an adventure set partly in India (ITV, 3.40pm)

- 6.00 Film: The Maltese Falcon (1941, b/w) starring Humphrey Bogart, Mary Astor, Peter Lorre and Sydney Greenstreet.
- 7.40 Paradise. An award-winning animated film.
- 7.55 Film: Otello (1966) starring Placido Domingo.

VARIATIONS

- TSW As London.
- TVS As London except 2.15pm-3.45pm. Three's Christmas.
- TYNE TEES As London except 2.15pm-3.45pm. Three's Christmas.

Radio 1

- VHF Stereo and MW (medium wave).
- 5.30am Adrian John 8.00 Philip Schofield 10.00 Simon Bates, incl 12.30 Newsbeat.

Radio 3

- 6.55 Weather, followed by News headlines.
- 7.00 Christmas: Oration: J.S. Bach's Unde wahren Hirten in deruelben Gegend: English Baroque Soloists.

Radio 4

- LW (long wave) (s) Stereo on 6.55 Shipping Forecast.
- 6.55 News Briefing; Weather 6.10 Prelude (s) 6.50 Prayer for the Day (s) 6.55 Weather.

Radio 2

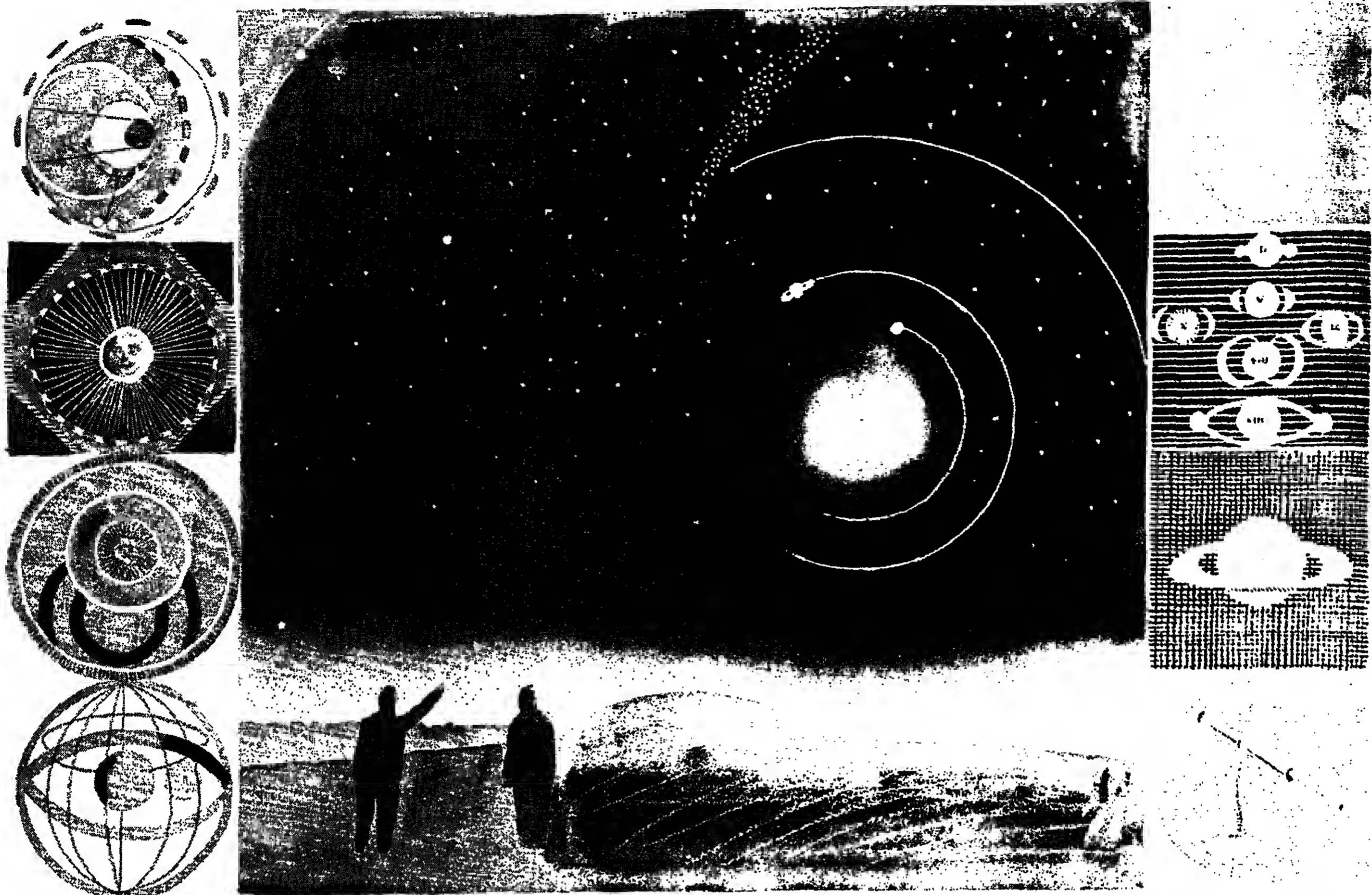
- VHF Stereo.
- 4.00am Bill Rannells 7.00 Chris Stewart 8.05 Ken Bruce.

World Service

- As in last night.
- 7.00 News: 7.00 24 Hours 7.30 Monday 8.00 News: 8.00 24 Hours 8.15 Five Weekenders.

Jindo Special Boxing Day Sale. \$1795 - \$2995. Gold Island Fox Half Coat / Shawl Collar. Natural Silver Fox Full-Length Vertical Coat with horizontal sleeve. Fully Stranded Demi-Buff Female Mink Coat.

# CREATURES OF NIGHT



Let me be drawn up into the immensity. Into the darkness, where nothing can be known. Once there were creatures of light leaping across the firmament, and the pattern of their movement filled the heavens. But the creatures soon fled and in their place appeared great spheres of crystal which turned within each other, their song vibrating through all the strings of the world. These harmonies were too lovely to last. A clock was ticking in the pale hands of God, and already it was too late. Yes. The wheels of the mechanism began to turn. What was that perching by Joseph Wright of Derby? I saw it once. Was it called "The Experiment"? I remember how the light, glancing through a bell-jar, swerved upwards and covered the whole sky. But this too went out: the candle flame was blown away by the wind from vast furnaces, when the electrical powers swept across the firmament.

But there were always fields, fields of even time beyond the fires. Empty space reaching into the everlasting. At least I thought that as a child. Then there came a tremor of uncertainty. There was no time left. No space to float in. And everything began moving

away. Nothing but waves now, their furrows tracking the path of objects which do not exist. Here is a star called Charmed. And after this, after this dream has passed, what then? What shape will the darkness take then? I... Damian Fall turned to his companion. "Of course, you know what we will be observing?"

"Aldebaran."

"Yes. There." Damian pointed towards the horizon, and both men looked out at the great star. "One hundred and twenty times brighter than the sun," he said. And he put his hand above his eyes, as if shielding them from the heat. Burning star. Seeming to be red, but the colours shifting like an hallucination. In this same area of the sky they saw small cones of light, called Hyades and believed to be a greater distance from the earth - cool red stars glowing within the clouds of gas which swirled about them. And close to them the lights known as the Pleiades, involved in a blue nebula which seemed to stick against each star, the strands and filaments of its blue light smeared across the endless darkness. Behind these clusters they could see



**FIRST LIGHT** by Peter Ackroyd  
The latest novel from the author of *Hawksmoor* and *Chatterton* will be published in the spring - and also throughout this week in *The Times*, in six extracts

the vast Crab Nebula, so far from the earth that from this distance it was no more than a mist or a cloud, a haziness in the eye like the after-image of an explosion. And yet Damian could see further. He looked up and could see Galaxies. Nebulae. Wandering planets. Rotating discs. Glowing interstellar debris. Spirals. Strands of brightness that contained millions of suns. Darkness like thick brushstrokes across a painted surface. Pale moons. Pulses of light. All these coming from the past, ghost images wreathed in mist which confounded Damian. I am on a storm-tossed boat out at sea, the dark waves around me. This was

what the earliest men saw in the skies - an unfathomable sea upon which they were drifting. Now we, too, talk of a universe filled with waves. We have returned to the first myth. And what if the stars are really torches, held up to light me on my way? I see what they saw in the beginning, even before the creatures of light appeared across the heavens. I can see the first human sky.

"Yes," he said. "Aldebaran. Once this region was thought to form the outline of a face in the constellation of Taurus." He looked at the face of his companion, but he could see only a silhouette in the darkness. "But the Pleiades contains 300 stars in no real pattern. Just burning, being destroyed, rushing outward." The last vestiges of cloud had now drifted away and the entire night sky had reappeared, so bright and so clear that Damian Fall put out his hand to it; then he turned his wrist, as if somehow he could turn the sky on a great wheel. And for a moment, as he moved his head, it did seem that the stars moved with him. "Why is it," he went on, "that we think of a circular motion as the most perfect? Is it because it has no beginning and no end?"

"Now that's a deep question."

"Like circles in stone. You know there was an ancient historian who wrote about the stone circles around us here? Even on the moor. He describes how a god was supposed to return to the island of Britain every 19 years, the period in which the stars completed their cycle. During his visitation the god sang and danced continuously by night - on just such a night as this - from the spring equinox to the rising of the Pleiades. And of course the rising of Aldebaran with them." His young companion shifted his feet, and said nothing.

"A hundred thousand million galaxies. A hundred thousand million stars in each one."

"Serious numbers."

"I wish we could see them all, but then probably the light would blind us. Still, we do our best." He turned around and looked back at the observatory, its white dome gleaming in the starlight. "What I meant to say," he went on, more cheerfully now, "is welcome to the project. Welcome to Holblack Moor."

"Tea up." The two men were roused from the darkness, and stepped apart, as a young woman called over to them. "Almost dawn," she said. "Time for a nice cup of tea."

"Coming, Brenda. We're coming."

This star is Strange. And this is Charmed. Everything is rushing

away. Damian drank his tea and, under the light issuing from immensity, he chatted with Alec and with Brenda.

He drove back by way of Pilgrin Valley and, as he turned down the small track which ran beside it, he was forced to brake suddenly in order to let a brown car pass. He looked at it curiously, and saw a man and woman sitting in the front; they were saying nothing to each other, but the woman was holding up a small mirror in order to pat her hair into place. It was already light.

The two in the car are Mark Clare and Evangeline Tupper, archaeologist and civil servant, who have come to inspect a great tumulus which has just been discovered.

"From ashes to ashes," she said. "How gorgeous."

"And you see," he went on, "where the fire died down within the ash forest? There. Over there." In his excitement he took off his green deerstalker hat and pointed with it across the valley.

"You mean all those alarming black stains?" She peered vaguely in the direction of his outstretched hat, and noticed large scorch marks which at this distance looked like shadows on the earth itself.

"The burnt trees were cleared away, after the fire. And that's when we saw it." He looked at her, his eyes still wide. "That, Miss Tupper, is when we made the discovery."

"It's the most extraordinary story I have ever heard in my life." On this spring afternoon, her words disturbed the vast pool of bird song around them. "I'm getting goose bumps. Or are they goose pimples?"

Evangeline Tupper and Mark Clare were standing on a track beside the west slope of Pilgrin Valley and ahead of them, across the east slope, stretched the bright grass which sprang from the chalk of this region. It is so bright that it seems to blaze and its line of flame to follow the curve of the chalkland for many miles, sweeping across its ledges and plateaux, filling its shallows and depressions, rising with its dunes and hills. From the air it appears to be a huge river moving inland from the sea but those who walk upon it know how fragile it can be, how easily uprooted from the soil, how close to the hard bed of the chalk itself so that its brightness becomes a kind of delirium, its green a fever of imminent destruction.

From the west slope of the valley they could see how one area

of the chalk grassland was still scorched and blackened after the fire but how, to both sides of it, the landscape remained as it had always been - the fields here of varying colours, as if clouds were passing overhead and turning the vivid green into darker shades of emerald or of jade. Here also there were patches of juniper scrub and, dotted among them, dark evergreen bushes which from this distance looked almost black against the varying shades of the land. There was a ridge above the valley at this point, with a decaying plantation of beeches clustered upon it; mixed among the beeches there stood a clump of young ashes, their smooth grey bark like strips of light against the dark wood of the older trees. And there, further down, on the edge of the burnt forest, was the ancient tumulus itself.

The grass or turf which covered it was of a darker green than any in the fields beside it and although at first sight it might seem part of the natural landscape - its shape was like that of a hillock or dune - on further inspection it was clearly not in proportion with the rest of Pilgrin Valley. It was 12 feet at its highest point and some 80 or 90 feet in length, seeming to emerge from the side of the valley itself and then rising upwards before eventually tapering to a point. This long narrow mound might have marked the sudden emergence of some creature now extinct or have represented some ancient and forgotten disease in the landscape - a large growth which had for centuries been successfully concealed beneath the covering of ash trees, but which had now at last been revealed within the blackened circles of a forest fire.

So, in Pilgrin Valley, close to the observatory on Holblack Moor, a tumulus has been found. But for Mark Clare, the principal archaeologist, it is the beginning of a difficult and painful journey.

Mark returned to his study after dinner, and sat among his books. Around him there were piles of his own papers, graphs, computer print-outs, and drawings as well as old copies of archaeological journals and volumes of archaeological research. On his shelves, too, were antiquarian studies of the area itself. For Dorset was his obsession. He believed that this place had its own sound - he had always heard a peculiarly soft quality in the bird song - and its own smells. And when he saw the sheep and cattle peacefully grazing in the fields he could feel the pressure of its beneficence, its curves and folds cradling the life which seemed to have issued from it. It possessed an almost human presence, as if the generations of those who had dwelt upon its surface had left some faint echo - as difficult to recognize as the song of a particular bird, but a subdued persistent note beneath all other sounds. Or was it a colour rather than a note - that deep green, as rich as blood, as soft as breath, forever being renewed? When he lay upon the grass of Dorset it was as if he were being borne up by the hands of all those who had come

before him. They were the ground on which he rested. Yes, this was a haunted place. It contained mysteries.

He took down a volume of *Dorset Antiquary*. Even its title evoked for him the open fields, the hollows and recesses of green, the wooded horizons, the curving boundaries of the chalk, the soft earth. And once again he felt at peace. He did not want to read it, he just wanted to hold it in his hands and look at it, turning its musty and slightly damp pages and gazing once again at the engravings of the old landscape with its ancient mounds and long abandoned pathways. He stopped at one page, which contained a sketch of a tumulus somewhere in the region. It had been drawn by some 18th-century antiquary, and it dominated the rolling landscape like a leviathan. And yet in another sense it seemed to Mark to be in true perspective, since the landscape itself had been changed beyond recognition - with his finger he traced the outline of wild trees in the engraving, their branches linked in so boldly that they seemed to be leaning in fright away from the mound, away from the ravines beneath them, away from the distant crags which contained no reassurance of any human community. All these features might have been emanations from the tumulus itself and, above them, the antiquary had depicted a livid and turbulent sky. But perhaps this was how the landscape then was. Or perhaps, after the engraving was completed, this was the way it had become.

He looked up at the sky. The rainstorm had passed and it had become a clear, calm night - on just such a night Gabriel Oak was tending his sheep on Norcombe Hill in Thomas Hardy's *Far from the Madding Crowd*, and Hardy describes how "... the sovereign brilliance of Sirius pierced the eye with a steely glimmer, the star called Capella was yellow, Aldebaran and Betelgeuse shone with a fiery red" for this was a night when "the twinkling of all the stars seemed to be but throbs of one body, timed by a common pulse". But the stars are not pulsating in quite that manner. They are rushing away from an unknown point of origin, and this planet is rushing away with them, driven on by the force of some event that created time in the same unimaginable moment as it created space.

Mark Clare was not thinking of this. He looked up at the heavens and for him the constellations were transformed into the faces of Evangeline Tupper and Kathleen, his wife. This was the story written across the sky. And then these faces faded, and he began to see the outline of an unknown child's face. "A child," he said. "Our own child."

Kathleen could not make out his words but she had heard the strange tone in his voice; she knocked softly and entered the room, seeing only his silhouette against the sky. Then she heard the collection of antique clocks chiming the hour in the shop beneath their flat - all of them, great and small, sounding together. "It's so dark in here, Mark," she said. "Put on the light. You should put on the light."

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**TOMORROW: EXPLORATIONS BEGIN**









Andries: has turned a beating to his own advantage

British boxing's forgotten man has got himself another world title chance

Rock who refused to crumble

The Hitman was the first to call him The Rock. He was not as good as The Sugarman or The Marvelous One, that was for sure...

Desire which was born from defeat

But he never came back. Instead he hitched a ride downtown to the Bronx and demanded an interview with Hearns's trainer...

"Hike a right onto the subway to the gym selling candy on the corner... Rawley, if ever, has the greatest outside Seven States tube station been there described."

Journeyman earns place among elite

Unlike Hearns, Andries was not born with natural boxing talent; nor, like the last "Rock", Rocky Marciano, does he have a punch like the right hand Marciano would introduce to opponents as "Sazie Q".

Wisdom of desert island trip questioned

Five of Britain's leading swimmers set off at the weekend for a two-week racing and training visit to a small island in the Indian Ocean.

RUGBY UNION: HESITANT START LEADS TO AN UPHILL STRUGGLE FOR WASPS AND AN AFTERNOON OF DISCOMFORT FOR THEIR ENGLAND MAN

Oti back on a wing and a prayer for better things in store

Amid the interest which surrounded the return, at Roehampton on Saturday, of Chris Oti, the fact that Wasp lost a match they could and should have won tended to be hidden...



Fall guy: Oti (left), who showed no reluctance for physical contact, meets Park's challenge

Hindmarch stands out in ponderous performance

of possession, struggled in the scrums and founded on Nottingham's major asset, lineout organization, in which Hindmarch was the definitive figure.

Bristolian goodwill goes a mite too far

Llanelli 43 Bristol 48 Like the Three Wise Men, Bristol were in a generous mood at Strady Park on Saturday.

Bridgend caught napping by Rayer

After failing to beat Bridgend in four seasons, it was high time Cardiff sought revenge. But this did not seem to be the likely season to do so since they have already lost half of their 22 games and with very little promise of better things to come.

Lineen on show with McGuffie

Boxing Day rugby in Scotland features several important fixtures, among them the annual match between Edinburgh Academicals and the Coopers at Raeburn Place and three important games in the Scottish League.

Feast for Steven as Edinburgh win

MacGregor followed up his own blindside kick to win the touch down. The Gordonian extended North's lead with a drop goal before Edinburgh scored a push over try.

Birkenhead Park go from awful to worse

To those of us trained in extra-sensory perception, it seemed quite likely, after five minutes at Moss Lane on Saturday, that Birkenhead Park might have problems.

Michael Stevenson's schools rugby column is on page 22.

Foretaste of things to come

Although the start of the county championship is still two months away, Lancashire and Cheshire will have an early trial of strength in the traditional Boxing Day match today on the premises of the Liverpool Sefton Club at Aigburgh.

As always, the senior match should fulfil the usual expectations of keen competitors, friendly rivalry and much conviviality along the sidelines.

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Zendejas wins it for Oilers

Cleveland, Ohio, (Reuters) - The Houston Oilers plucked the Cleveland Browns 24-23 in the first play-off game of the National Football League on Saturday.



Desert Orchid to join elite band

By Mandarino (Michael Phillips) Only Halloween, Mandarin, Pencil, Captain Christy, Silver Buck and Wayward Lad have won the King George VI Rank Chase twice or more during a history of greatness that now goes back 41 years.



Richard Lee: re-routing Delius to Ayr next month

Another promising horse owned by Mr and Mrs Charles Heald, who saw their colours carried successfully by the West Awake in the Novice Hurdle.

beating Slalom. Whether he would have done so had out Sir Blake fallen at the last flight remains a matter for conjecture.

KEMPTON PARK Selections By Mandarino 12.45 Cruising Altitude, 1.45 Sir Blake (nap), 1.45 Olympic Times.

Going: good to firm 12.45 ANOTHER CORAL 34 (D.J.S.) (M Dwyer) D Nicholson 5-11-7 ... 202 0922-1 BRANDON PIER 8 (D.J.S.) (M Dwyer) D Nicholson 5-11-7 ... 203

1.15 BUTLIN'S FELTHAM NOVICES CHASE (Feature race: £10,272; 3m) (4 runners) 201 1422-11 SLALOM 18 (D.J.S.) (Mrs M Russell) M Robinson 7-11-7 ... NON-RUNNER ...

Course specialists JOCKEYS Riders Percent C Brooks 9 75.0 R Dwyer 9 86.1 M Ryan 3 5 23.3 S Shawwood 9 86.1 J Gifford 1 74 20.0 P Power 9 86.1 S Chastain 4 22 18.2 D Elsworth 15 76 17.1 (Only qualifiers)

Trainers' preferred races The following is a list of trainers' Boxing Day preferences where a horse is engaged more than once: 12.45 Cruising Altitude, 1.45 Sir Blake, 1.45 Olympic Times.

WETHERBY Selections By Mandarino 1.00 Young Benz, 1.30 Raise An Argument, 2.00 Castelvendo.

Guide to our in-line recordcard 1 1134-1 GOOD TIMES 13 (D.J.S.) (Mrs D Robinson) B Hill 12-0 ... B West (7) 88

Going: good 1.0 CHRISTMAS NOVICES HURDLE (4-Y-O; £1,325; 2m) (13 runners) 1 316 GALLOWAY RAISER 19 (D.J.S.) (J Blaney) Denny Smith 11-7 ... P Nixon 88

1.30 TOWTON HANDICAP CHASE (£5,162; 2m 44 100yds) (5 runners) 1 1119-12 RAISE AN ARGUMENT 27 (D.J.S.) (D J Poynton) Mrs M Dickinson 8-12-0 ... R Baggan 88

THE TIMES RACING SERVICE Live commentary and classified results Call 0898 500 123

1.45 ROYAL GARAGE HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,882; 2m) (14 runners) 301 400-200 NEERIS 20 (D.J.S.) (J Blaney) R Alhurst 7-12-0 ... 1 Sharnock 88

2.20 KING GEORGE VI RANK CHASE (Championship race: £37,280; 3m) (6 runners) 401 2123-11 BOB TISDALL 16 (D.J.S.) (K Al-Said) J Edwards 9-11-10 ... T Morgan 65

2.50 NOWAR WAYWARD LAD NOVICES CHASE (Listed race: £5,921; 2m 4f) (11 runners) 501 33-2122 CORAN MERCHANT 27 (D.J.S.) (Mrs L O'Connell) R Frost 7-11-4 ... R White 87

3.20 SOUTHCASTLE WORLD HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,622; 3m) (10 runners) 601 029-205 MICK MUCK 23 (D.J.S.) (M Twiston-Davies) N Twiston-Davies 7-12-5 ... S Shawwood 88

2.0 JOHN HAGGAS MEMORIAL NOVICES CHASE (Listed race: £5,026; 3m 100yds) (7 runners) 0-0190 GREEN BORNE 26 (D.J.S.) (S Lysett) G Henson M Crump 8-11-8 ... P Harris 88

2.30 BICKERTON HANDICAP HURDLE (£3,002; 2m 4f) (8 runners) 1 40-341 CHRISTMAS HULLY 18 (D.J.S.) (D.J.S.) (W J Gifford) M Dwyer 7-11-10 ... B Smith 87

3.0 ROWLAND MEYRICK HANDICAP CHASE (Listed race: £10,820; 3m 100yds) (9 runners) 1 112-1 F BOB TISDALL 16 (D.J.S.) (K Al-Said) J Edwards 9-11-10 ... T Morgan 65

3.35 BOXING DAY NOVICES HURDLE (£1,044; 2m) (11 runners) 1 0022-0 BELT THREAD 44 (G Toms) R Whittaker 5-12-7 ... M R Whittaker 87

Course specialists TRAINERS Winners Runners Percent J Edwards 11 10 22.2 P Harris 10 64 23.4 M Dwyer 22 105 20.3 M R Baggan 22 148 20.3 W A Stephenson 22 99 14.5 M W Esterly 14 85 18.5 (Only qualifiers)

BOXING DAY'S BIG RACE FIELD C4

2.20 KING GEORGE VI RANK CHASE (Championship race: £37,280; 3m) (6 runners) 401 2123-11 BOB TISDALL 16 (D.J.S.) (K Al-Said) J Edwards 9-11-10 ... T Morgan 65

MARKET RASEN Selections By Mandarino 12.45 Man Of Fun, 1.15 Zeta's Lad, 1.45 Jimmy Jack, 2.15 Nick The Brief, 2.45 Tresider, 3.15 Meric.

1.15 BRUCE CARR MEMORIAL COPPY CHASE (Listed race: £2,387; 3m) (9 runners) 1 60-1 ZETA'S LAD 19 (D.J.S.) (J Connolly) S 5-11-0 ... R Richards 61-4

1.45 KILVINGTON LONG DISTANCE HANDICAP HURDLE (£2,040; 2m 4f) (16 runners) 1 2-0 SPACIOUS VENTURE 23 (D.J.S.) (Mrs J Fitzgerald) 5-12-7 ... P Hayes 87

1.45 SAYLOR'S LAD, 1.15 SABIN DU LOIR, 1.45 CINDERELLA DEREK, 2.15 MIGHT MOVE, 2.45 OUTSIDE CIRCLE, 3.15 SUWOOD.

2.15 HURLESTONE HOTEL HANDICAP HURDLE (Listed race: £3,132; 2m 150yds) (14 runners) 1 116-1 BILLILLA 202 (D.J.S.) (D Belding) 5-11-12 ... R Guest 88

2.45 LANGSTONE CLIFF HOTEL CHASE (Listed race: £3,949; 3m 2m 100yds) (5 runners) 1 17-48 SAGGED PATH 16 (D.J.S.) (D Elsworth) D Nicholson 8-12-0 ... C Gray 88

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Carvill's Hill to top the bill at Leopardstown From our Irish Racing Correspondent, Dublin Jim Dreaper finally decided yesterday that Carvill's Hill would take his chance in the £20,000 Denny's Gold Medal Novice Chase, the Boxing Day feature event at Leopardstown.

RAPID RACELINE CALL 0898 168+ THE COURSE BELOW Live Commentaries Past Results











THE ARTS

The mystery of time and origins

How does any novel begin? First Light was so much part of my own concerns and attitudes that it is almost impossible now to disentangle the strands of its origin.

Peter Ackroyd, whose new novel, First Light, will be serialized in The Times next week, explains the resonance of his Dorset home and the fascination of tumuli and neolithic encampments

I live for some of the time in a cottage on the side of a valley, at that mysterious point where Dorset and Devon meet, and over many months I have been looking from the window of my study across the valley, and speculating about the race which once inhabited this region. Far, far, back. Who were these early inhabitants, who lived in the neolithic encampments to be found all over the area, and who perhaps helped to build the stone circles which are also to be discovered here? Why did they build their circles in stone, and why did they take their bearings from the sky? What did they see in the sky? In our time we trace waves of energy emanating from some inconceivable moment of origin, and we detect such fabulous phenomena as "black holes". Did they see waves, too — did they believe themselves to be embarked upon a vast sea? And what creatures did they recognize in the sky? So it was that First Light slowly filtered down to me.

For these matters fascinated me. I have always been interested in the nature of time, and the presence of even the most remote past in the landscape through which we move every day and which we call our own. I have always believed, too, that if there is any harbour for the dead, and any meaning within the world, it is to be found in the process of time itself. Perhaps that is why Dorset has always seemed to me to be an especially interesting place — of all the areas of England it is perhaps the most continually inhabited, from the remotest period of human settlement. There is a continuity there, a kind of haunting. And, in First Light, the story began to circle around the discovery of an ancient tumulus and its inhabitant.

Of course I read everything I could about that remote past — books by archaeologists, by palaeontologists, by economic

historians. But the evidence is scattered or hard to interpret, and the central mysteries remained. No one really knows much about these people, our ancestors. Our own origins are lost in darkness and all our learning really amounts to no more than stories told in the dark. Wonderful stories, sometimes — about stone circles which become observatories, about ritual sacrifice, about an international order of wise men. But stories, never the less. I put some of them within the narrative because novelists, too, often need stories to explain a world which is otherwise unathomable.

But even as I was writing First Light I became aware of another mystery — for some time I had been reading accounts in books and the more specialized magazines of those discoveries being made in the areas of quantum physics and cosmology, since the scientific exploration of these two intimately related areas — the infinitely small and the infinitely large — represents the most exciting development in our period. And what had been disclosed in the course of these explorations? More mysteries. More mysteries of origin. The closer matter is examined, the more incomprehensible it becomes. Electrons move in all possible trajectories at once, and appear in two places at the same time. The spin of a sub-

atomic particle follows the random choice of the scientist, as if he were literally creating the universe as he went along. Or perhaps it might be said that the universe always fulfils our expectations — the stars adopt the pattern which our theories predict they will take. Once we have conceived of the miraculous possibility of "black holes", then they come into existence and wait patiently for our observations. In that sense scientists also have to be fabulists, magicians, story-tellers — with the authority to make sense of a universe which seems literally inexplicable.

That is why in First Light an observatory springs up on a moor not far from the excavations of the ancient site and why the astronomer there, Daumian Fall, suffers a kind of breakdown when he comes to believe that "in each generation the heavens become a celestial map of human desires, reflecting the most recent theories concerning the nature of matter and the history of the universe. What were the theories of Kepler, of Ptolemy, of Copernicus, of Einstein but stories — stories lasting only for a brief period before being replaced by others? And what did all their knowledge really demonstrate? Merely that the stars took on the shapes which we chose for them. They became the image of ourselves. Perhaps there were no stars

and no planets, no nebulae and no constellations, perhaps they merely came into existence in recognition of our wishes and demands. And if there came a moment when no one on earth was studying the heavens — no child looking up in wonder at the stars, no radio telescope directed towards the distant galaxies, no astronomer sitting in the observatory — what then? Was it possible that the heavens would then disappear?" And so in First Light the mysteries of the universe and the mysteries of matter became associated for me with the mysteries of our own origins upon the earth. The dunes and tumuli of Dorset were filled with as many secrets as the cosmos. The ancient neolithic shape within the chamber grave is as much a part of us as the cosmic trace elements to be found in our bodies, but these are themes which cannot really be discussed in analytic prose and can only be disclosed through the medium of fiction or of poetry. That is why, in First Light, the archaeologists at the excavation and the astronomers in the observatory seemed in the end to represent two fields of force which touched each other at every point; why the discoveries within the ancient tomb affected the very sightings of the stars. That is why the story has a circularity like the circles of the sky and the circles of the stone monuments. As always the characters emerged as I wrote, starting to talk so loudly that I could only listen and take down what they had to say — the inhabitants of the region, the scientists, the lost people who haunt ancient sites, the invading hordes from London, all of them in turn affecting each other.

It may seem paradoxical that I am trying with difficulty to trace the origins of a book which is at least in part about the nature of origin — but even this is part of that endless pursuit towards certainty or meaning to which all of us are engaged. That is why the book is in part a comedy, for the impossibility of finding that goal is matched only by our assiduity in continuing the search for it. And that is why First Light is also a mystery, a pastoral mystery, for it is the mystery of our own selves.



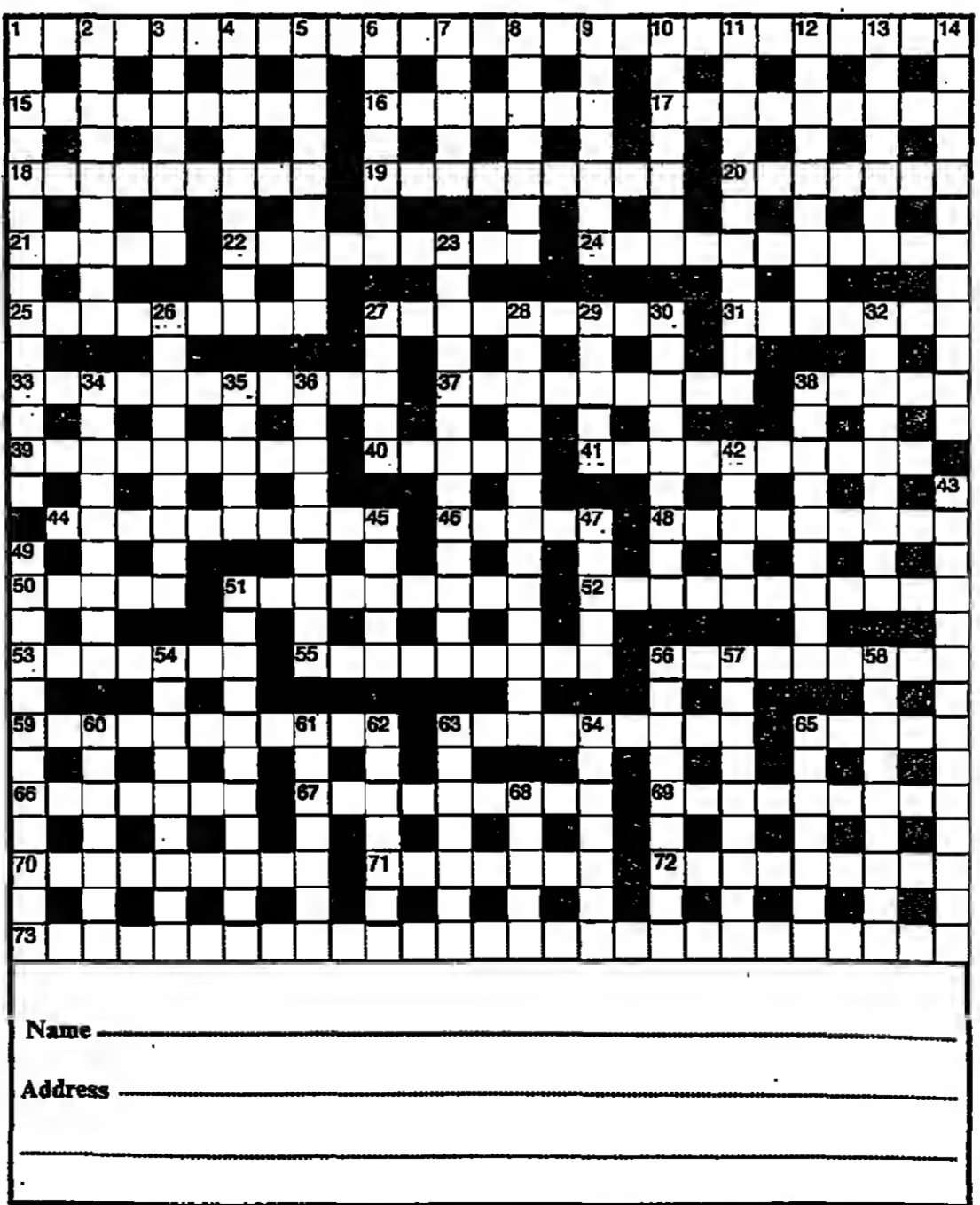
Present in the past: Peter Ackroyd, finding that investigation of one mystery will lead to another.

The Times Prize Jumbo Crossword

ACROSS
1 Penultimate gifts of true love then received (2,3,4,3,2,9)
15 Chosen to take exam for this sort of college (9)
16 Visual aid required for one, I heard (7)
17 Gun needed for the draw (9)
18 Likeness of men with cables for repair (9)
19 Ruffian gets othing after commercial travellers come back in late (9)
20 Saint Scoutus beat? (7)
21 British and American leaders at sea in Indoesia (5)
22 Right turn to render spellbound — so vigorous! (9)
24 Misrepresentation of traditional high-class building material (11)
25 Hamlet said that, like this creature, "I eat the air, promise-crammed" (9)
27 In conformity with agreement with the worker (9)
31 Material needs changing — it's a bet (7)
33 Of great renown as an aircraft carrier (11)
37 2000 — a time to dream, or go mad? (9)
38 Colocel Thomas was inquisitive, we hear (5)
39 Artuculate composer of a nice tune (9)
40 Picture of a very warm-hearted RAF type (5)
41 This was a fiery creature, two girls said (10)
44 Settle Ann's trouble having no one to pay the rent (10)
46 Get this, as advice to progressively minded founder of school (5)
48 Plot of ground with uranium and oil mixture yields a fragrant shrub (9)
50 Robots dramatically capture the French king (5)
51 Sort of oovel homes, say, for instance (9)
52 Cite one reel needing re-ediing as Campaign for Votes (11)
53 Tempts French nobleman to enter episcopal offices (7)
55 "Patriotism is the last refuge of a —" (Johnson) (9)
56 One article taken by the amateur cracksman is a flowering shrub (9)
59 Work together with Royal Engineers — local boat construction (11)
63 A West Indian friar (9)
65 Smoother means of air travel (5)
66 Restore formation of Mary's Pretty Maids (7)
67 Birds get most of the bacon slices (9)
69 A simple little quarrel with Mrs Bardell for instance (9)
70 Issue that gives Epsom's first and last before a race (9)
71 King imprisons the kid perhaps (7)
72 Dooe nicely if incompletely anyhow — just laziness (9)
73 Rhythmical relation of the Boomerchase? Just so (3,4,4,2,3,3,8).

DOWN
1 Excessive underwriting of so successful a share offer? (14)
2 The man from the sultanate with a delusion of divinity (9)

Prizes of £50 will be given for the first five correct solutions opened on Monday, January 9. Entries should be sent to The Times Christmas Jumbo Crossword Competition, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London, E1 9XN. The winners and solution will be published on Saturday, January 14.



SOLUTION TO NO 1753 (yesterday's concise crossword)
ACROSS: 1 Mrs Mop 4 Vitric 9 Dracula 10 Thump 11 Vale 12 Forescen 14 Impair 15 Biafra 18 Escorial 20 Hold 22 Vault 23 Blatant 25 Ration 26 Imbibe
DOWN: 1 Mad 2 Snarl-up 3 Ovmn 5 In-revid 6 Route 7 Cap in hand 8 Kapok 11 Voice-over 13 Libretto 16 Floican 17 Cabby 19 Count 21 Balm 24 Toe

Concise Jumbo Crossword

There are no prizes for this crossword. The solution will appear on Monday in our Boxing Day edition

ACROSS
1 Theme tune of Beatles cartoon film (2,3,4,2,1,6,9)
15 Ten litres (9)
16 Impolite (7)
17 Boiler insulation (3,6)
18 Listing (9)
19 Shoulder tab (9)
20 Goa powder (7)
21 Still to be paid (5)
22 With physical pleasure (9)
24 Electricity charge measure (11)
25 Warrior shout (9)
27 Replete (9)
31 Moon apogee and perige (7)
33 Unreliable type of friend (11)
23 Writings (8,5)
26 Put down weapons (5,4)
27 Mast pivot spar (5)
28 Spindle thread machine (8,5)
29 Billiards riotchet score (2,3)
30 Giver up (9)
32 Amylum (3,6)
34 Busy Lizzie genus (9)
35 Farewell (5)
36 Nazi Jewish program (9)
53 Takes a chance (5,2)
55 Short-lived (9)
56 Lends a hand (7,2)
59 Middle Eastern floorshow girl (5,6)
63 Light Brigade charge battle (9)
65 French soldier (5)
66 Cleanliness (7)
67 Criticise severely (9)
69 Warn crew (5,4)
70 Flood (9)
71 Believer in souls for all things (7)
72 Big smile (5,4)
73 John Huston's 1947 film about greed (3,8,2,3,6,5)
DOWN
1 Uncle Tom Cobbleigh's destination (10,4)
2 Jonson's role for Subtle (9)

The winners of prize concise No 1748 are Mrs J. Casserly, Top Lodge, Bowden Hill, Lacock, Wiltshire; and B.M. Batchelor, Brinsmade Road, Amptill, Beds.

Crosswords for Christmas: The Ninth Penguin Book of The Times Crosswords, £1.99, now on sale. The Times Computer Crosswords, 4 volumes, each £19.95 inc. £11.95 postage, for IBM, Austral, Atari ST, BBC & Spectrum. Tel Akon Ltd, 01 852 4575, for details.





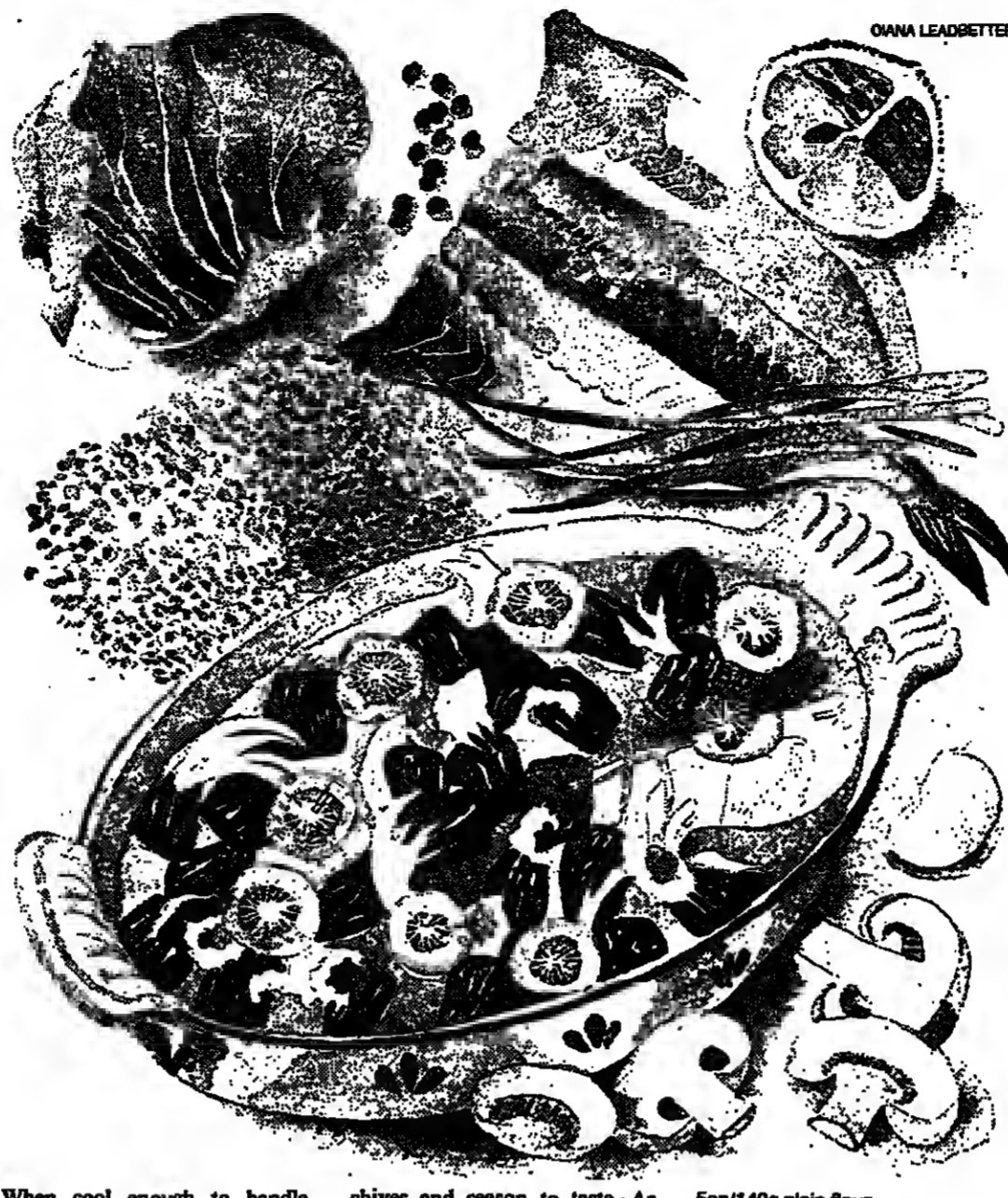
THE TIMES COOK

New leaves for tired palates

If the thought of slices of cold turkey stretching into the New Year does not appeal, Frances Bissell has some fresh thoughts on meals which can be made from stocks kept in the refrigerator

With so few shopping days between now and the New Year, it is a good idea to think about the kind of food that keeps reasonably well...

mushrooms and so on, or sweet cushions of dried fruit, ground almonds and spices. I use it for a crisp fluted pastry case to hold a spicy apple and raisin filling...



10 some soup or stock so as not to waste them.) Heat a non-stick frying pan. Taking a few pieces at a time, sear the meat all over, and transfer it to a casserole...

A last-minute pudding can be made using dried fruit soaked in wine. It will also make a good Christmas present, packed in a glass jar

The crumble topping could not be easier. Although it is most often to be found on sweet dishes, crumble can be made without sugar but with the addition of some finely chopped herbs...

When cool enough to handle, thinly slice them. Remove any bones and skin from the fish, and cut it into 12 even pieces. Steam or poach for two or three minutes...

5oz/140g plain flour
3oz/85g butter
Cut the meat into small chunks. Heat the oil, and gently fry the sliced carrot, onion and celery until they begin to brown...

7, 200-220°C/400-425°F, for 20 to 25 minutes. Crisp vegetables are best with this rather than purées. I would serve a dish of cabbage prepared with a flavoured vinegar...

1lb/455g undyed smoked haddock fillet
washed and dried salad leaves
2 tsp olive oil
4 tsp water or fish poaching liquid
4 tsp double cream
few drops lemon juice
1oz/30g butter, chilled and sliced

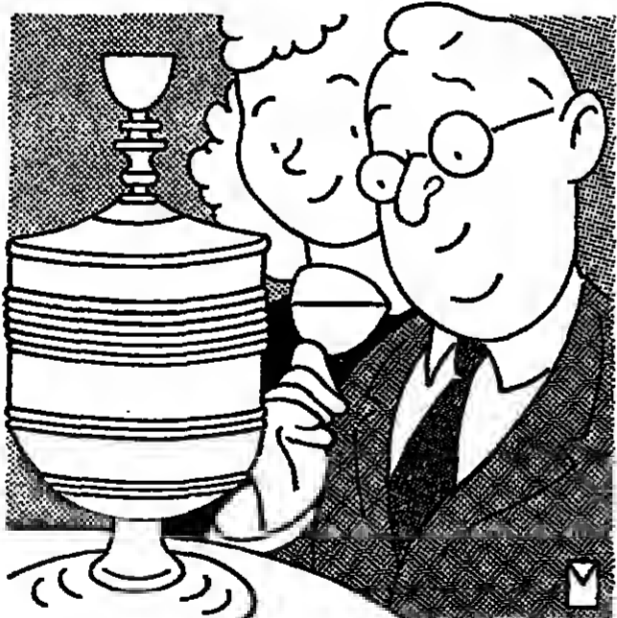
1lb/455g white cabbage or Chinese leaves
2oz/60g butter
1 tsp brown sugar
2 tsp fruit vinegar
Shred the cabbage finely. Heat the butter in a heavy frying pan or wok...

1lb/455g dried apricots
1 bottle muscat wine
Wash and dry the apricots. Pack into a 1 kilo glass preserving jar, and fill to the top with the wine...

COLLECTING

Healthy cup of kindness

"I don't know what purpose this curious object was meant to serve," said the owner. "I have a nasty feeling it's a funeral urn, but Hugo insists it's a punch bowl with a lid to keep the contents warm."



"Your husband isn't far wrong," replied the valuer. "It's a late 17th-century wasail bowl for holding ale, cider or wine flavoured with sugar, spices and apples..."

or the exertions of two or three men." "All that effort to produce this?" "If you wanted to sell it, you'd be the first to agree that it was all worth while. Being complete with its lid and a knob formed as a spice-cup, it could easily fetch a four-figure sum..."

Peter Philip

ROMFORD, ESSEX: Antique furniture and collectables. Collier Row Auction Rooms, 122 Collier Row Road (0708 22824). Today, 4pm.

SALES GUIDE
Major London salerooms are closed for Christmas; business resumes on January 3. Christie's will then open its premises at King Street, St James's, which will be given over to a loan exhibition "The Anglo-Dutch Garden" (above) which celebrates the tercentenary of the accession of William and Mary...

LEICESTER: Victorian and later furniture and effects. Nigel Dearman & Co, 66 Churchgate (0533 21416). Friday, 11am.

SHOPAROUND

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The exclusive new range of THE TIMES COMPUTER CROSSWORDS with special assistance for beginners featuring advanced 4th Generation software is available for most IBM, Amstrad, Atari ST, Spectrum, BBC and RM systems from Akom Ltd.





OUTDOOR LEISURE

Gathering winter fuel

Robin Young on the pleasure of scouring the woods and ditches for the detritus of nature and the reward of a warm living room



Pulling old wood from the undergrowth brings one tangibly closer to nature: "inland beachcombing" in a Surrey pine forest

There are many ways of walking. Townspeople used to do it the Lambeth way, looking foolishly cheerful, or the Barnet way (perhaps you remember the advertisements), looking like insurance men or rent collectors going about their business. Nowadays it is more fashionable to do it the Ian Botham or Jimmy Savile way (for sponsorship money to go to charity), like Wainwright (to commune with nature), John Hillaby (to commune with people), Mark Wallington (to exercise the dog) or the late Dr Barbara Moore (to prove a point).

about smokeless-zone regulations when they have wood to burn. Take a country walk with a handcart, a barrow, a home-made bogey or a pram and it is easy to pick up a five-foot worth of logs and kindling without strenuous exertion. Open up the back of a family estate car and you could, with luck, keep the home fire burning for a week.

unmanaged and neglected woodland where fallen boughs have lain undisturbed sometimes for years. No one is going to complain if you tidy up a bit in a sensible way. Some landowners will positively welcome an offer of some clearing and felling if you can convince them that you know what you are doing and will behave responsibly.

prosecutions at all in the last six months, but on every forest walk I take I see other people, like me, picking up choice timber remnants. Since there is a limit to what the members of a family can easily transport cross-country, it is well to know your firewoods before you start, especially if you intend to burn the wood in an open fireplace.

and clear after it has seasoned for a year - so the hurricane's windfalls are burning well now. Chestnut needs longer. The best of all firewoods is ash, which has the singular quality of burning as well when it is newly cut as when mature. Ash green or ash brown, is fit for a Queen with a golden crown.

The world in your pocket

Anthony Cox visits a shop which will chart your hike over the Downs or set your course into the wild blue yonder

The intrepid walker can easily find the road to Kathmandu - and beyond, to the "forbidden" Tibetan city of Lhasa - with the help of a £5 map, while the AA Directory of Town Plans (£15.95), although less romantic, will prove a good friend to motorists visiting unfamiliar places nearer to home.

With a brief from the Government to "expand the market for OS products", it is advertising its wide range of maps, atlases and guides as Christmas "stocking fillers" or "quality gifts".

The important thing about maps is to choose the right one for your purpose, says Peter Ashworth, of Edward Stanford Ltd, Covent Garden, London, the publishers of the Tibetan map and operators of what is claimed to be the world's largest specialist map shop.

An alternative to buying maps for walking is to join the 63,000-strong RA (1 Wandsworth Road, London SW8 2XX; 01-582 6878) and make use of its inexpensive members-only OS map hire service.



A guide to the open road

You have to go all the way

A review of four guides for the rambler, armchair and long-distance

It is impossible to walk the Ridgeway, that great pedestrian motorway of upland chalk which winds down into Wessex, without being aware of the fact that whole cultures and civilizations have passed this way before you and left their cryptic debris on the landscape.

byways first confirmed by the movement of Palaeolithic feet or earlier, that Jane Whittle writes her exploratory collection, Twenty Wessex Walks (Hobnob Press, £14.95). This is patting writing; the prose feels out the texture of the routes as it goes. The style is unexpectedly dense and heightened for a "mere" book of walks, until you realize it is no such thing, rather a foray into the very soul and spirit of the place.

etymology, underlies Adrian Room's Dictionary of Place Names in the British Isles (Bloomsbury, £15.95). Just like routes, names contain elements of the place's evolutionary story; like routes, they can be variously hurred or bold, suggestive or unambiguous. Nor do the parallels end there, for they are no less the product of successive waves of occupation.

browser - the instant and easy gratification of learning that Catterick is a corrupted cataracta, a Roman reference to the nearby waterfalls on the River Swale; or that the Channel Island of Sark derives its name from the Old Norse serkr (shirt), because of their similar outlines.

and outlandish parts of the globe, chronicled, explained and annotated by 10 ambitious walkers. Some are 190 miles, others only 60. Yet, though the colossal mountains captured here in word, deed and colour photography, are Olympian, the standards of fitness and endurance needed to accomplish them are comparatively modest.

LEATHER SPORTS CASUAL From £9.95. Includes an advertisement for leather shoes with a list of features, a diagram of a shoe, and a credit card order form.

A look at the little ice age. Includes an advertisement for a book about the Little Ice Age, a weather eye section, and a debris dating section.

WEEKEND WALK. Includes an advertisement for a weekend walk in the South Downs, a map of the area, and a description of the route.







Compiled by Peter Dear and Jane Rackham

TELEVISION AND RADIO

BOXING DAY

The Renaissance men



David Parfitt (left) with Kenneth Branagh, who founded the Renaissance Theatre Company last year, provide a behind-the-scenes look at theatrical democracy at work (C4, 7.00pm)

It is easy to mock the Reader's Digest as the sort of publication that would condense War and Peace into three pages and pass it off as literature... but News From Pleasantville (BBC2, 9.55pm) pays the compliment of taking seriously the world's most read magazine in 197 countries.

Pulling out all stops

desperation as the mild-mannered solicitor posing as an eccentric jazz dancer at a party in a stately home... The question mark in the title of Better Halves? (Radio 3, 7.05pm), a short series based on the premise that "Behind every man..."

BBC1 7.00 Now It's Christmas starting with The Muppet Babies (r). 7.20 Champion the Wonder Horse (b/w) in Sated Ground (r).

ITV LONDON 6.00 TV-am begins with Boxing Day Sport presented by Geoff Clark. 9.25 The Soccer Classics Show with Matthew Corbett, Roger Walker and Suzy Altshon.

BBC2 9.00 Cezair. 11.00 Film: Fort Apache (1948, b/w) starring John Wayne and Henry Fonda. Western drama about an embittered US Cavalry colonel who is posted to a remote fort in the Arizona desert.

CHANNEL 4 9.30 Sesame Street. Pre-school learning series. The guest is Victor Borge. 10.20 Race Against the Wind. This first of a repeated series of Acquisit Adventure

Radio 1 VHf Stereo and MW (medium wave) 6.30am Adrian John 8.00 Philip Schofield 10.00 Simon Bates. 12.30 Newsbeat 2.00 Steve Wright 4.55 Newsbeat 7.00 UK Top 40 with Mark Goodier. 1.00 The Web's Lost Beatles Tapes 7.30 Radio 1's Christmas Concert featuring INXS 8.30 John Peel 9.30 2.00am Andy Peebles Soul Train.

VARIATIONS Part 1: 6.00 News and Sports Results. 6.15 Strike It Lucky. Game show presented by Geoff Clark. 7.00 The Krypton Factor Grand Final. (Crackle)

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Radio 2 VHf Stereo 6.30am Bill Remmels 7.00 Chris Stuart 8.05 Ken Bruce 11.05 Michael Aspel's Solid Gold Show 1.05 Chris Eubank. 2.00 Adin Love 4.00 Brian Matthew 6.00 Frank Sinatra at Concert 7.00 Alan Carr with Dance Band Days and at 7.30 Big Band Era 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton with the Best of Jazz on Record 10.00 The Law Game 10.30 Double Bill 11.00 Joe Brown's Knees-Up 12.00 Alan Lister with Night's News 1.00 A Little Night Music (medium wave) as above except 2.00-6.00pm Boxing Day Sport on 2 featuring football, rugby league, cricket and racing from Kempton (2.20 King George VI Rank Steeplechase) Review of the Year 5.00 Sports Report 5.30 Brian of Sport Challenge

Radio 3 6.55 Weather, followed by News Headlines. 7.00 Christmas Oratorio: J S Bach's Unde und seine Hirten in derselben Gegend: English Baroque Soloists and Monteverdi Choir under Gardiner with Ruth Hollen (soprano), Nancy Argentia (soprano), Anne Sofie von Otter (mezzo-soprano), Anthony Rolfe-Johnson (tenor), Hans-Peter Blockwitz (tenor), and Olaf New (baritone). 7.30 Morning Concert: Ravel (Valles nobles et Valles nobles et: Romande Orchestra under Anselmetti); Camille Saint-Saens: Concerto for Violin and Piano (Alfred Brendel); Mendelssohn: Concerto for Violin and Piano (Itzhak Perlman); Liszt: Sonata in C major, Op 10/10 (Claudio Arrau).



ENTERTAINMENTS

Law Report December 24 1988

BARBICAN
10am - 8pm daily
CENTRE CLOSED 24/25 DECEMBER

VICTOR HOCHHAUSER presents
at the ROYAL ALBERT HALL
THREE NEW YEAR GALA CONCERTS

WALK IN THE WOODS
A WALK IN THE WOODS
BY LEE BLESSING

No immunity without official notice

Regina v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Osman (No 2)
Before Lord Justice Mustill and Mr Justice McCowan
[Judgment December 21]

RAYMOND GURRAY presents
at the BARBICAN
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

at the BARBICAN
WEDNESDAY 4th JANUARY 7.45
SPANISH FIESTA

at the BARBICAN
WEDNESDAY 4th JANUARY 7.45
SPANISH FIESTA

Extradition courts bound by previous cases

Regina v Governor of Brixton Prison, Ex parte Aarons
Before Lord Justice Bingham and Mr Justice Leggatt
[Judgment December 20]

TUESDAY NEXT 27 DECEMBER at 3.30 p.m.
ENGLISH CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

at the BARBICAN
WEDNESDAY 4th JANUARY 7.45
SPANISH FIESTA

at the BARBICAN
WEDNESDAY 4th JANUARY 7.45
SPANISH FIESTA

Procedure for admitting computer printout

Regina v Minors
Regina v Harper
Before Lord Justice Watkins, Mr Justice Bush and Mr Justice Slynn
[Judgment December 14]

TUESDAY NEXT 27 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m.
GILBERT AND SULLIVAN WITH THE NEW DOYLE CARTE OPERA CO

at the BARBICAN
WEDNESDAY 4th JANUARY 7.45
SPANISH FIESTA

at the BARBICAN
WEDNESDAY 4th JANUARY 7.45
SPANISH FIESTA

Different punishments create different offences

Gardner v DPP
Before Lord Justice Bingham and Mr Justice Leggatt
[Judgment December 7]

FRIDAY NEXT 30 DECEMBER at 7.45 p.m.
DENNIS O'NEILL'S OPERA GALA NIGHT

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30
MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30
MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE

TUESDAY 3 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.
TCHAIKOVSKY

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30
MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30
MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE

NEW YEAR'S DAY at 3.15 and 7.30 p.m.
JOHANN STRAUSS GALA NIGHT

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30
MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30
MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE

TUESDAY 24 JANUARY at 7.45 p.m.
SPANISH EVENING

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30
MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30
MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE

FRIDAY 20 JANUARY at 7.30 p.m.
THE ROMANCE OF TCHAIKOVSKY

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30
MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30
MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE

THE SOUTH BANK CENTRE
10am - 8pm daily

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30
MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE

at the ROYAL FESTIVAL HALL
SUNDAY 8th JANUARY 7.30
MASSED MILITARY BANDS SPECTACULAR OF MUSIC & DANCE

Continued on page 27





SPORTS BOOK OF THE WEEK

Alletson's day in the sun

Nothing like it had ever been seen or would be seen again. This obscure bottom-of-the-order batsman became the most notorious athlete in England. For a brief spell he was what he had always wanted to be, a great cricketer.

No account of the evolution of cricket would be complete without acknowledging the fact that sometimes a cricketer may strive all his playing days for just one moment of true glory...

These death notices reminded readers of the one day in the old man's life when for an hour or two he took on the lineaments of a superhero...

On the morning of May 20, 1911, a young man hobbled over the shingle on Hove beach and strode into the surf. The sea front was almost deserted.

The young man was a perfect physical specimen, just over six feet tall, broad-shouldered and deep-chested, and although in the peak of condition, weighing over 15 stone.

Alletson was a professional cricketer, a golden age crammer with dazzling figures who would hardly have spared Alletson a thought.

Three days before his dip in the sea, the Notts side had arrived at Hove for the annual championship match with Sussex.

Alletson was not the first young man, nor would he be the last, to dream of that succulent slice of cricketing pie in the sky...

Cricket Match. Played at the Hove Ground Brighton Date May 19. 20. 1911. Second INNINGS OF Nottinghamshire. Table with columns for batsmen, runs, and bowlers.

spin and yet at a fast-medium pace. But, because the leg-break has to be delivered out of the back of the hand, real pace is almost impossible to achieve.

Notice it was as a bowler that Alletson aspired to power, not as a batsman, which makes his story doubly remarkable.

Doubts about the process had complicated the team selection, so that not 11 but 12 men had travelled down.

Notts, a powerful side, champions in 1907 and boasting at least four England batsmen, won the toss on a genial wicket and started well.



Joining the greats: Alletson (right) had neither the classicism of Hobbs nor the greatness of Barnes but, for a day, was the king of cricket

ground on May 20, and no further mention of the match appeared in its columns.

On that last morning Alletson was still troubled by his injured wrist, and thought that perhaps contact with sea water might ease the sprain.

Three minutes after the resumption Alletson drove the four which gave him his half-century, and from this point he did not so much assault the Sussex bowlers as enter a mood of inspired dementia.

In no time the game had drifted out of reality into the realms of pure moonshine. Five times Alletson drove Killick's bowling into the middle distance.

Alletson started to bat in a manner which he later described as "normal", scoring 47 runs in the 50 minutes before lunch.



David Frith Collection

career, by which time the proceedings on the field no longer resembled a cricket match at all.

Play was repeatedly brought to a halt because there was no ball for the players to play with, Alletson having struck five of them out of the ground.

Neither were the fielders much inclined to lend a hand. John Gunn's brother, George, himself a batsman of wayward genius, remembered calling out to Vine, the Sussex deep fielder.

Alletson got down to business in earnest. It was now just half-past two, and as he thrashed the bowling ball could literally be heard humming past the Sussex outfielders.

In 90 minutes Alletson had scored 189, the last 142 of them in only 40 minutes. Nothing like it had ever been seen or would be seen again.

The facts are rather less dramatic. In his very next innings Alletson again smashed the ball all over the place, scoring 60 in half an hour against Gloucestershire.

There are many possible explanations for his return to mediocrity, and the most persuasive is that he was still preoccupied with his potential as the bowler of the elusive fast leg-break.

Rumours began to circulate that his bowling action was not within the letter of the law. He bowled so low that season.

In 1914, against Derbyshire, his captain asked him to bowl again, and once more he was taken off because of the alleged illegality of his action.

What happened? Edwin Roaler Alletson over lunch in the Hove pavilion on May 20, 1911? Probably nothing at all, but it is irresistibly tempting to speculate whether someone slipped a double brandy into his glass of ale.

It is an odd and endearing fact about human nature in its relation to cricket that, as Nyren and Cardus well knew, the backward look is always with us.

This is an extract from A History of Cricket by Benny Green (published by Barrie and Jenkins, £15.95).



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Runners-up videos

Gold medal success stories from the 1988 Olympic Games: Florence Griffith-Joyner, Adrian Moorhouse, Naim Saleymanglia, Steffi Graf, the British men's hockey team.



competing in 23 sports for 237 gold medals in the summer Olympics. Lasting 60 minutes, it also includes the spectacular opening ceremony and the controversial Ben Johnson drug-taking incident.

"Golden Moments" captures all the memorable performances of 160 nations

ACROSS

- 1 Racetrack livens store (11).
8 He is full of intent down under on the wing (7).
12 Hearts and Hibs are at home here (9).

- 30 Harris, Greenwood and Atkinson in full (6).
31 A footballer will try to do this cleanly at the back of the defence (5).

Crossword grid with numbers 1-83 and clues for across and down.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_

- 57 A mate could be a member of one (4).
59 A star man of the grand prix track (7).
61 An aural test will put you on first-name terms with a golf champion (5).

Pappin's holiday may be longer than he expected

By Sydney Friskin

Veryan Pappin, the goalkeeper for Hounslow, Scotland and Great Britain, will be spending the short winter break from hockey in Devon where he was born and raised, anticipating to some extent his enforced period of inactivity.

As a physical education officer in the Royal Air Force he generally likes to keep going and apart from hockey he has tried his hand at squash, rackets, cricket, baseball and volleyball.

This may not be the end of Pappin's disappointments. He also fears that he will miss the Champions Trophy tournament in Berlin from June 10 to 18 if the Great Britain Hockey Board decide, as seems most likely, that Britain's representative will have to do without Grunley, Jeonops and Halliday, who will be playing for England to the HDM tournament at The Hague.

Indoors, the England under-21 team, strong contenders for a medal in the Junior European Championship at Orense, Spain from January 27 to 29, will have a final work-out from January 13 to 15 at the Midlands tournament at Birmingham, where they will face their counterparts from Austria, France and Wales.

St Albans, however, will have to do without Grunley, Jeonops and Halliday, who will be playing for England to the HDM tournament at The Hague.

Taylor's essential goals for success

By Sydney Friskin

Ian Taylor, who has just terminated a distinguished career as a goalkeeper by winning an Olympic gold medal, has a final word of advice for those wishing to improve their game - keep practising.

His book of instruction, Taylor on Hockey, deals not only with the pleasures, or otherwise, of goalkeeping but with a whole range of topics connected with the game.

His preoccupation is somewhat unconventional, a greater impact being made with vivid illustration of the skills and techniques of some of Taylor's own contemporaries who have revolutionized the game since the transition to artificial turf. Among these are Stephen Batchelor, Sean Kerly, Richard Dodds, John Potter, Imran Sherwani, all of England and Great Britain, Stefan Blocher and Ekhard Schmidt-Opper, both of West Germany, Richard Charlesworth, of Australia, and Hassan Sardar, of Pakistan.

Taylor himself has a special corner in Chris Moore's book, Discovering Hockey, in which there are absorbing chapters too on Kerly, Potter and Charlesworth and interesting accounts of other leading personalities of the modern era.

The passing parade of stars of the past begins with Stanley Shovelier and includes the legendary Dhyan Chand, of India, who belonged to a different social system. Apart from portraying the game's leading personalities the book describes how the game has progressed from restricted infancy to flourishing maturity.

Written with the co-operation of two members of the Great Britain team, Richard Dodds, the captain, and Paul Barber, the book offers something fresh and exciting, appearing as it does so soon after the gold medal triumph in Seoul.

It covers almost every aspect of the game, the stimulus of competition and the element of challenge, its laws and its administration, and concludes as most books of its kind do, with a useful stock of records.

The book deals with equal emphasis on systems and set pieces and more significant plays during the game's development, not forgetting the

GUIDE TO THE WEEKEND FIXTURES

- 3.0 unless stated
B and Q Scottish League
First division
Clydebank v Raith
Dumfries v Ayr
Falkirk v Partick
Kilmarnock v Meadowbank (2.0)
Morton v Forth
Queen of St Johnstone

- Wrightdale: Reading v Canterbury; Redbridge v Metropolitan Police;
Worcestershire v Gloucestershire;
Worcestershire v Gloucestershire;
Worcestershire v Gloucestershire;

Advertisement for Trainers' Club featuring a large image of a man in a suit and the text 'ENJOY THE BREAK WITH TRADITION'.

BOXING DAY FIXTURES

- Barclays League
First division
A Villa v QPR
Charlton v Arsenal (11.30)
Derby v Liverpool
Evertton v Middlesbrough
Jawahar Lal Nehru v Nottingham F
Sheffield Wednesday v Newcastle (12.0)
Southampton v Coventry
Wolverhampton v Luton (11.30)
Wimbledon v Millwall (12.0)

CYCLING

- Curran chases ninth win in ten years
By Peter Bryan
Paul Curran, the Commonwealth Games double road champion, has his last race tomorrow as an amateur. He is competing in an annual Christmas Day ten miles time trial at Saltburn (Cleveland) which he has won eight times in the last nine years.

Advertisement for Trainers' Club featuring a large image of a man in a suit and the text 'ENJOY THE BREAK WITH TRADITION'.





